

DOBSONS

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BOBBES:

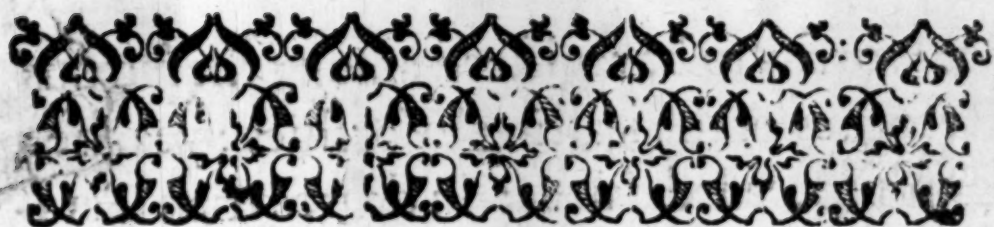
Sonne and Heire to Skoggin.

Full of mirth and delightful recreation.



LONDON

Printed by VALENTINE SIMMES
1607.



To the Reader.



Here is nothing more delightfull than mirthfull recreation, which I doubt not but who-soeuer shall peruse this small Treatise, will be sufficientlie satisfied : It is like vnto a Garden wherein each humour may haue his seuerall walke priuate and vntrequented (as yet) of any Passengers. It is no forraine translation, but a home-bred subiect, nor dooth hee desire anie other thing than his patrimony, which is, as being the eldest sonne of Skoggin, to be esteemed for no Changeling, onely by how much the propertie of his father was fitte to be altered, hee hath by so much, in the quantitie of his time reformed : he is to auntient men mirth, to the middle age profite, and to youth nurture, pregnant witte : To conclude, hee is George Dobson, whose pleasant meriments

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Othello 1.3.323

The Preface.

are worthy to be registred among the famous
Recordes of the ieasting Worthies : yea, hee
hath proceeded farther in degree than Gara-
gantua, Howleglasse, Tiell, Skoggin, olde
Hobson, or Cocle : Hee hath put himselfe
to the publique view of all men, and desireth
to beare you company to your priuate Stu-
dies, where when your leasure doth permit
you, his presence may delight you. And so
I bid you heartily farewell.

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- How Dobson deceiued his friend *Raikebaines* of a pudding, and how he shut him vppe in the candle cupboard. 5.
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- How *Dobson* kept his third dispute in publike Schooles against one *Malgrado*, a fellow student of Christs Colledge, and of his expelling the Vniuersitie. 15.
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DOBSONS

DRIE BOBS.

¶ How sir Thomas Pentley adopted George Dobson
for his sonne. Chap. I.

In the Cittie of Durham was some-
time resident, one sir Thomas Pent-
ley, a Priest, instituted after the olde
order vsed in Quene Maries daies,
who for his exquisite skil in musicke,
was admitted to be a Canonist in the
Cathedrall church of Durham: and
for he was also otherwise supposed
learned, and a man of modest life, he was beneficed be-
sides with the vicarage of Saint Giles in the same towne:
by reason whereof he waxed very rich, and a great pennie
father, liuing alwayes vnmarried, and keeping no hous-
hold or retinue about him, saue onely one of his sisters,
whose husband dying, he tooke home to be his huswife:
after that there was a dissolution made of their Cloyster,
and that it was thought fit for men, rather to liue at their
owne choice, than at others appoyntment, graunting all
that would, liberty to take wiues, and they whose sto-
macke stode against that estate of matrimony, to dispose

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of themselves as to them seemed good and most correspondent to their liking. This sir Thomas, in time, seeing his money to increase, and his wealth to abound, resolved with himselfe, since hee was determined neuer to take wife, whereby to have children, vnto whome he might leaue this his aboundaunce and riches (I say) resolved with himselfe, to dispose of it in some good sort during his life time, lest otherwise his friends, after his death, should goe together by the eares in diuiding the stake. Therefoze he beganne, by little and little, to play the good fellow, causing his sister, who was both Cooke and Cater, to provide him good and plenteous fare, inuiting also his neighbours and others his acquaintances to dine and to suppe with him: especially vppon solempne feastes, as Christmasse, and Easter, he kept open house, and gaue good and bounteous entertainment vnto all that would come. And so prodigally hee spent, as in the end his husbande beganne to repine at his large hospitallity, perswading her selfe, that if he continued this course long, it would be but a very little that would fall in diuidence to his friends after his death, and therefore shee thought euery way as good to take part with him, as to expect that which the cat leaueth in the maul. Whereupon she sent to her other sister dwelling in the country, who was married to one Ieffrey Dobson, certifying her of their brothers vnthriftinesse, withall, admonishing her to make a speedy repaire vnto the cittie, and with her to bring her husband, children, and family to make their abode, dwelling, and stay with sir Thomas: For otherwise, if shee omitted that opportunitie, it was a very probable matter, that her share of his goods would be very slender, and farre short of her expectation, for our brother, saith she, is fallen into such an humour of spending, that his yearly reuenues will scarcely discharge his yearly expences.

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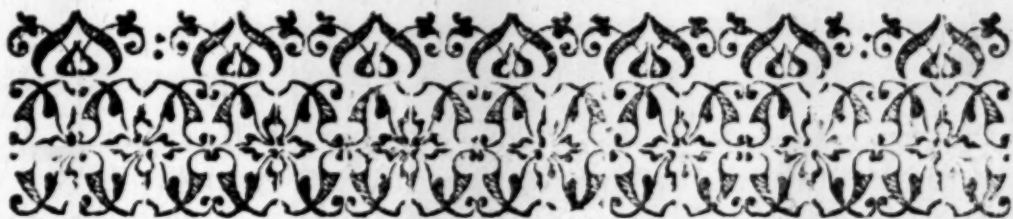
pence. His sister at this newes became as pale as ashes, and soze she feared that all would be gone befoze she could get her family remoued to the towne. And as though sir Thomas had bene already dead, and the executozs gone away with all the goodes, shee ranne to the fields, where her husband was at the plow, to make knowne vnto him what message her sister had sent her. The good man who had taken her to wife, moze in regarde of that benefit hee hoped to reape by her after sir Thomas his death, than any other respect, made no lesse haste to be remouing, than she desired: and so forth with losing his oren forth of their teame, commaunding his men to goe home and thze forth all his cozne pzesently, and his wife to packe vp all her household stuffe and napery against the next mozning, himselfe went forth pzesently to a neighbours house nere by, and let to him the lease of his farme: and comming home that night, his wife hauing dispatched euery thing accozding to his commandement, he conueyed his stuffe, so much as he thought needefull, to the citie of Durham next mozning, carrying with him his wife and childzen, whome he bzought with him to the vicarage of S. Giles, at the very instant when sir Thomas was set to dinner, but newly come home from the Minister, where (according to his custome, hee had bene helping to sing diuine Seruice. Whiles sir Thomas was eagerly caruing such meates as were set vpon the table, his appetite being very sharpe, he sodainely heard a great rushing and noyse of cartes, rattling vpon the stones within the court, and maruelling whence such noyse should come, if it were not there, and what occasion any had to be there, he could not coniecture, sith himselfe had no vse for any at all, neither did he know of any that had businesse there to doe, moze than halfe misdoubting his hearing, he started forth with from the table, and looking forth at his windowe, he did
B 2 beholde

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beholde his court full of cartes, loaden with tables, cup-
bozds, beddes, and such like houtholde stufte, at which
sight he was not alittle amazed, fearing that the Bishop
had endowed some other with the benefice of that bica-
rige, meaning to depzue him, and that the cartes and
stufte appeared to be the new parsons: yet he no lesse mar-
uelled why the Bishop should so do, considering that hee
no way ill deserued, either committed any thing where-
by to incurre the Bishops displeasure. Also, if this his sup-
posall were true, hee thought it strange and vncharitable
dealing, that hee should in such maner be excluded, with-
out either admonishment oz notice giuen to pzouide for
himselfe. But pzesently, as he stode there diuersly di-
stracted, with these doubtfull thoughts, he was aduertis-
zed by his houskeper, who had inquired the matter of the
Carters, that the stufte was his sister Dobsons, who with
her husband and childzen she sayd, was come to make her
remainne and dwelling there with him, and who, as shee
was making this report, came in at the gate, her husband
and childzen with her. But sir Thomas not alittle estran-
ging at the newes, beckened to the Carremen to stay the
unloading of their cartes, till he came forth to meeete his
sister at the doores, of whome demanding the cause of her
comming after such a sort, hee was informed of his house
keepeers embassage sent to her, wherewith he was verie
much offended, causing them all to come into the house
and dine: with good and faire speeches hee intreated her
to returne to her owne home againe, with assured pro-
mise that hee would pzouide sufficiently for her, and the
residue of his friendes: and for the better security there-
of, because that imprudently they had leased away their
Farme, hee pzesently gaue to her husband the moytie of
a tithe he held amounting to fenne poundes a yee, vntil
such time as their owne Farme should fall vnto them a-
gaine:

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gaine : and also hee tooke from them their eldest sonne, George Dobson, whome hee adopted for his owne, and brought vpp at Schoole in Durham, to whose course of life and merry ieafts, was will direct the tract ensuing, licencing his mother well contented with her brothers beneuolence, to returne to the countrey againe with her husband, and other childzen.



Now is George Dobson taken from his mothers lappe, and left to the care and prouidence of his vncle sir Thomas, who perceiuing his disposition knauiſh, thought good in time to hope him in beſore hee fell to licking: and knowing, that while the twigge is yong and tender, it is alſo flexible, to keepe him from other waggish turns, hee iudged it the beſt courſe to ſet him to the Schooles: and in regarde himſelfe vſed to goe twice euery day vnto the Maſter, hee could not ſo well attend him, as his wildneſſe required: and ſearing againe, that his ſoliſh loue towardes him might induce him to ſorbear correction when hee well deſerued the ſame, and the neglect thereof was a certaine meane for euer to vndoe him, hee rather determined to ſend him to the Church of Saint Nicholas amongſt other little childzen of the Cittie, where

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hée had not béene thzee dayes, but hée falling at variance with a Merchants sonne of the same towne that was his schoule fellow, he burst his lanthorne booke all to péeses, and the boyes sozehead was so soze, that the blood raine about his eares, neyther could they stay it, but conducted him home to his mother, who when shée sawe the blood of her little sonne, shée well-néere fell into a sowne, and had suncke to the earth, if shée had not béene supported by her husband, who after hée had well viewed it, assured her that the boy was nothing the worse, and then sending for a Surgeon, caused him to stay the bleeding, and to plaister the soze: but albeit there was hope of amendment, yet when the mother knew after what manner it was done, shée bitterly raged against poore Dobson, causing, not onely his Schoole maister seuerely to correct him, but attending sir Thomas his comming from the Cathed:all Church, who was to passe by her shoppe, shée made a grievous complaint to him against his Nephew, bzinging her sonne to the view, and shewed him the greatnesse of the soze, and after a womans manner, whose anger is implacable, and whose reuenge is measurelesse, she tolde sir Thomas, that vnlesse he did punish his nephew for the fact, shée would haue him debarred of comming any more to schoule there, either the maister, if he receiued him, she would haue extruded from his place. Sir Thomas in good speeches praying her to be satisfied, promised to performe her desire, and if shée mistrusted his word, if so it seemed good to her, hée offered to giue him the lawe in her presence. But she told him, no, that he should not, for she nothing doubted the fulfilling of his promise, and that shée did not seeke his affliction by way of reuenge, but that he might thereby be warned and deterred from doing so any more, and so seemed to request him to doe it discretely and without bitterness:

Sir

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Sir Thomas made few more replies, but made haste home
 to welcome his new guest with the whippe : and though
 he were soze for the childes hurt, yet hee could not but
 laugh in his minde, at the knauery of his Nephew, and
 the chollericke stomacke of the Merchants wife, poze
 Dobson nothing at all thinking of further conflicts, la-
 menting onely the breaking of his booke, for which hee
 not a little sorowed what answer to make to his vnckle:
 to lie, he esteemed it the worst course that could be, for hee
 knew his vnckle would sift forth the trneth, and if hee
 should be taken with a false report, he was assured to be
 purged thereof with no lesse than with the best bloud in
 his bzeath : so, not able to bethinke himselfe of a reaso-
 nable excuse, hee wept no lesse than for his beating re-
 ceived at his Maisters handes, expecting a sharper pe-
 naunce. His maister obseruing him still to continue in
 feares, demanded of him why he further wept, to whom
 he bewrayed his feares, and the cause thereof. His Mai-
 ster moued to compassionate his case, and deeming it in-
 iustice to haue him two times punished for one offence, he
 sent for a little glew, repayzed his booke, and wrot to his
 vnckle all the circumstaunces of what had happened, de-
 siring him to remit vnto him this first little delict, and to
 content himselfe with such punishment as he already had
 inflicted vpon him. Dobson humbly thanking his Mai-
 ster for this vnlooked for benignitie, as blithe as Bird on
 bziar, posseth home with his warrant in his pocket, but
 hee was no sooner entred into the Hall, and had broken a
 curtellie to his vnckle while he did espie vppon the Table
 holle wandes in water, colde cates, God wote, to stay
 his emptie stomacke withall. His vnckle taking one of
 them into his hand, sayde: Now good sir, where haue
 you bestowed your selfe this day, that you stay so late a-
 broade : Good vnckle, replied Dobson with a sober and
 demure

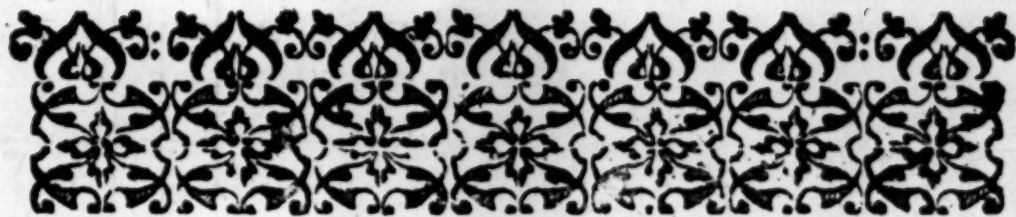
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demure countenaunce, casting his eyes vpon the ground, I haue bene at the Schoole. Haue you so? sayeth sir Thomas, I pray then lets see your booke, and how much you haue learned all this day? With that word Dobson breathed forth a pitteous sigh, and with a pensieue heart and trembling hands hee pulled his patched booke forth of his pocket, at which sight his buckle not able to containe himselfe from smiling, turning away that hee might not be perceiued, laughed a good space: afterward reflecting his lookes vpon his lamentable nephew, downe whose cheekes the teares streamed. My boy, sayde hee, I pray thee, who hath made thee a Joyner? mee thinkes thou hast taken thy booke in sunder, and hast made it to stand vpon ioynts, whereas in the morning it appeared vnto mee to be all one peece. without chyncke, ioynt, or member, otherwise my sight deceiued me: then Dobson prostrating himselfe, humbly prayed his buckle of pardon, and made true relation of the conflict passed betwixt him and his fellow, and that whatsoever he had done, it was in his owne defence, adding moreover, that his Maister had already giuen him due punishment for his trespasse, and therewithall hee pulled forth his Maisters note, and deliuered it to his buckle, the subject whereof agreed wholly with his reporte, and had vndoubtedly procured his pardon, if hee had not remembered his promise befoze made to the Merchants wife, whereupon hee caused word Dobson to vntruste, and to offer his breach to the blocke, which hee soundly lashed, and the next morrow carrying him vnto the Merchants wife, caused him to aske both her and her sonne forgiveness, who pardoning him, hee was sent agayne to the Schoole, with charge to keepe the peace with his fellows, lest he drunke of the whippe againe.

How

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¶ How the Boyes of the Schoole caused George Dobson to be whipped for their fault.

Chap. I I I.

THus is George Dobson (as you have heard) sent againe to the Schoole, where hee had not long continued but that hee proceeded the most part of his fellowes, who long before him had bene sent thither, to his unckles great content and pleasure, who at all times warned him to beware of playing the wagge, and of quarrelling with his fellowes, threatening him, that if hee so ill carried himselfe, hee would forever eie and turne him out of the doores, whereas otherwise, if as a dutifull boy he would apply his booke, and would also conforme himselfe to the disposition of his fellowes, and with them would live in unitie and concord, hee should not then want any manner of thing convenient to his estate and calling, but that after his death hee would make him his sole heire, and possesse him of all his landes, leases, farmes, and hereditaments. The boy was very attentive to his unckles exhortations, and conceived well, that such advise and counsell much concerned his health and welfare, and therefore (to his power) hee put them in execution, behaving and demeaning himselfe very respectfully, both in the presence of his unckle, and abroad:

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ener standing in doubt, that if hee should committe any thing vnapprouable, that the same might come to his vnckles knowledge, and if so, he were then for euer vndone. But notwithstanding all his care, which was meere acquiste and not habituall, as affirmeth the olde Proverb, That which is bred in the bone, will not forth of the flesh:

Naturam expellas furca licet vsque recurret.

We must needs goe whome the diuell dzineth: and whose fortune it is to be strangled, certaine it is hee shall neuer dzowne: So albeit George Dobson studied by all possible meanes to perfoyme all his vnckles pleasures and commaundements, yet for his life hee could not accomplish them, so many blockes were set for him to stumble vpon, for naturally he was of a crabbed and vn-
to ward disposition, and so rustike like, that he could not couer his clownish and wayward manners with the habite of ciuility, and in regard of his rude and ill fauoured gestures, antique trickes, and apish toyes, his Schole-fellowes many times tooke occasion to deride, scozne, and laugh at him: whereof hee being very impatient, and not daring with clubbe and fist to reuenge it, lest thereby hee should procure his vnckles indignation, for excessive grieffe, anger and sorrow, he would wrinkle his browes, whet his teeth, and pull the haire from his head, which hee would scatter and throw abroad in franticke manner. And if it had not bene more for the feare hee had to lose his vnckles fauour, than the whipping hee assured himselfe would ensue the combate, the most part of them had felt the weight of his fists. But the respect of his vnckles loue and affection moued him to beare so long, untill his heart was like to breake with discontent. The boyes of the Citty playing vpon this aduantage, especially his Schole-fellowes, knowing him to be bred in the Countrey,

trey,

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they, banded themselves together, made no lesse to doe about him, than the other birds doe of the *Dwle* at nowne time, if they catch her abroade in the wooddes; they omitted no opportunitie to disgrace him, eyther by riming, or railing vpon him, and with euery other despite their waggish bzaines could deuise, they abused him: many times they would forge matters of disorder, thereby to incense their maister against him, yea and most times when themselves had committed the faultes worthy of correction, they would thrust the blame vpon him. And although hee had euer wit enough to discharge and clere himselfe of their accusations, by the inference of diuerse probabilities of the contrary: yet, because they were a multitude, and hee onely one, their testimony was allowed, and hee assuredly sustained the punishment, because the fact done, and their witnesse improued him, hee not being able in particular to conuict any of them of the offence. And in the winter euenings they enacted many a lewd stratageine about the shoppes in their way to the Schoole, as bursting glasse wind-wes, ouerthrowing Milke maides pailles, pulling downe stalles, and crushing out the linckes which were hung forth to giue light to the Passengers in the Streetes. And whensoever they were pursued by any of the persons house or family to whome these iniuries were done, they hadde decreed that some should betake themselves to flight, as accessory and guilty of the trespassse, and that some others shoulde abide, as nothing consenting to the act, and willingly shoulde reueale and nominate the parties offending, which whosoever they were, onely Dobson was the man slandered, though both innocent and ignozant, yet euer vpon the next morrowe, the lawe proceeded, the case was determined against him, and he was found guilty by the generall verdict of the Jury. And to conclude, hee vpon

3 Henry VI
5.4.56.

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euery such occasion suffered alwayes the punishment that others had deserued: and these contrivings of his felows were so continuall, that they made him almost wearie of his life, and so desperate in the end, that he became in respect thereof, that he resolved rather than any further to tollerate this mis-usage, either to runne his countrey, or to forsake his friendes and their company, eyther to set at naught his vnckles iniunctions, and as he coulde catch any of them alone, whose malice he perceined to be endlesse against him, to pay them their debts in a diuels name. Long he rested doubtfull whether course to make choice of, and after much discusse and consideration, he conceiued, that to relinquish his vnckle and other his friendes in such a sort, were not his best booty, for one way he should thereby depriue himselfe of all theyr kinde affection, and doe moze damage and disgrace to them all, and his owne good name, than all their mischeuous deuises could be able to effect. Because the rumour of his departure, spreading it selfe through all parts of the Towne, would make the people suspect him accessory of some notozious trespassse done against his vnckle, and for feare of punishment so to haue cryed himselfe: either that his vnckle might be a shrewd and curious man, for strictly handling him, and that to auoyde his austeritie and hard usage, he had thus put himselfe to flight, eyther of which conceits he collected might be prejudiciall to them both. Againe, whither to runne or direct his course, he knew not, vnlesse it were home to his mother, who he was perswaded would returne him backe with a very vengeance. And then (saide he) with what face can I looke vpon my vnckle, or any other person of my acquaintance? And to goe to any other place, alas who will entertaine or receiue me, euery straunger will suppose the trueth, that I am runne from my friendes, and that

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that therefore I am the more apt to doe the same from them, If I shall taste any asperitie or eage vlsage, this wil be their imagination of me, and hereupon euery man wil be afraide to admit me into his house, and what then will ensue of me? If not, either to starue, begge, or steale: so that this course, vpon these considerations, hee reiected, as in no case to be prosecuted. And for the other, to fall to fifty ruffs, to giue them as good as they brought, and to pay them home their loane, with vsurie, though his stomacke serued well thereto, and his desire to deale his almes amongst them in such a sort, was no lesse than to his dinner, yet he apprehended diuers inconueniences imminent thereupon to ensue, to wit, his Maisters rewarde, which could be no lesse worth than twenty lasses, at euery time hee should hazard for it, and the enmity of his fellowes, and the worst that they could doe vnto him besides he was to expect. But both these two were in his cut already, and as a man would say, predestinate vnto him before either coate or shert. And therefore seeing it was his destiny, and a thing inenitable, it was as good to haue some play for his money, he thought, as to giue it away gratis. But then to curbe this resolution came to his remembraunce, the losse of his vncles goodwill and affection, if he should so violate his commaundement, and doe against his owne promise: nay, at his vnckles handes hee looked for no better than either vtter reiection, or the severest punishment he could inflict. What shall then poore Dobson determine to doe in the middell of so many extreames, neuer a one whereof hath any medicine? Alas poore soule saith he to himselfe, and is there no remedy, but either like a patient Alas I must applie my backe to support all the burdens of my contumelious fellowes scoznes, derisions, abusings, and forgeries, together with my maisters mercilesse and vniust punishments,

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ments, and the peoples undeserued exclamations, or else needes must I take me to my heeles, and so runne away, making my fate worth two paire of handes, and my selfe guilty of some filthy crime, neuer so much as once thought vpon by me: or shall I stand vnto the matter, and turne againe like a man, and purchase my libertie, although with the expence of the dearest blood in my breath, and perhappes with the losse of my vnckles fauour, who if hee weigh well my cause, or could vnderstand how I am forced therunto, and that my reuenge is but equall and iust, hath no reason to be offended with me for such action. And certainly, of all orther it is my most honourable decreë, neyther is hee so austere, sterne, or scarce of good nature, but that reason will perswade him, and for once I will attempt him: The other courses are not onely euilles, but ignominious, and where all are inconueniences, it is well allowed, that I make choice of the least in appa-
rance: and heerewith hee settled his purpose, that the next time they occasioned him by any of their accustomed practises, or set any new snare wherein to catch him, he would hazard to hang some of them by the necke, if he could.

Long it was not before they thus consulted against him: in the Citty neare vnto the gate called Chappell Barre, was dwelling a Haberdasher, who had a very faire wife, and as it was also reported, a merry disposed wench, a good companion among Gallants, when she could procure her husbands absence, eyther get a gossiping. All the crew of Venus attendants hearing tell of her beauty, witte, and good fellowship, repayzed to hir company, supplicating for Loues trophées, and the spoyle of her honesty, whereof (as the rumour went) shee was no great niggard, yet amongst all the number,
shee

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Shee most affected a Butcher of the Citty, and her next neighbour, who the more to content her humour, continued in a Batchelloys estate, though a man, of personage very proper, and much desired of a multitude of Maides in the cittie, who spared not (so farre as modesty permitted) to sollicite his loue. But hee reserued their expectations, therewithall to applaude the contents of this gallant Dame, and she (as it was generally coniectured) vsed him with no lesse kindenesse than her husband, affording to him all his desires as opportunities serued her therevnto: and so often as her husband had occasions to absent himselfe, by reason of his going to Faires and Markets and other like necessarie businesse in the Countrey, shee would giue intelligence thereof to the Butcher, who neuer failed to supply her defect in euery point, as if he had bene the Haberdasher: Their familiarity and acquaintance, at the length, grew so publike, that euery corner of the Citty was filled with the report thereof, and most men esteemed the Haberdasher free merchant in Cuckolds rowe: But shee standing vpon the Pantophles of her honesty, thought scozne to be tolde that Buckes had hoznes, or that Lauiernes were taken open Innes, and therefore, so often as she was trodden vppon the toes, as diuers times in quarrels with her neighbours she was let to vnderstand how the verditte passed as concerning her honesty, shee would sozsooth perswade her husband that it was a sufficient action to call such persons befoze the Chancelloz of the Spirituallties, and eyther in the publique Court to proue what they had slandered her withall, or they failing therein, shoulde sozthwith bee constrained to make her lawfull satisfaction soz so iniurious costes and charges.

And

Merry Wives
5.5.113 and
2.2.

Merry Wives
2.2.252
(see preceding)

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And this she continually suggested her husband unto, not vpon the knowledge of her innocency, but onely of purpose to cloude the poore cuckoldes eye-sight, and that vnder this pretext and challenge, she might insinuate her selfe into her husbands good conceit, and the better cloake her knaueries: and by these glozious shewes and painted deuises, she so much pzeuailed with him, that he really beleauing that she was a mirroꝝ of true modesty, and enuied onely by her neighbours, because she exceeded them in beauty, whereby he thought some iealousies they had lest she might allure from them their deuoted seruitors and affected friends, he walked on soꝝward like a snail with a house on her head, who no sooner looketh soꝝth, but her hoznes are espyed, the poore foole therefore relying moze confidence in his wifes flatteries, who notwithstanding all her bzauadoes, would haue bene very loth that matters should haue come to the scanning: then his neighbours certaine and assured coniectures supposing his wife to be one of those innocent soules, who were in- iuriously slandered and persecuted soꝝ her conscience sake, caused two honest matrons of the citty, the one a Draper, the other an Apothecaries wife, to be sommo- ned befoꝝe the Commissary, and there, either to make good such scandalous and oppꝝobꝝious speeches, as lately in their fallings out they had tared her withall: not being able to manifest the same, he desired the Commissary that they might be inioyned to aske his wife soꝝgiuenes, in the Court, Church, and market, in part of satisfaction soꝝ her credite and good name, so depꝝaned and bzought in question. But alas poore man, he had soꝝgot that the moze the durt is stirred, the greater stinch it yeeldes, and that whereas befoꝝe he was but suspected to be a cuckold, that now, if it were in their power to pꝝoue it certayne, they would rather doe it, than hazard the penalty of the law:

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lawe: But he, I say, nothing mistrusting his wifes defence was very earnest in the matter, and so hotly pressed them, as they could not auoyde him without their owne prejudice, vntill they made apparant by such instances, as his wife was not able to improue, and themselves blushed to produce, that he was one of them to whome the bird in Maie sings the double note, cuckoo. So when the case was substantially discussed, and sentence to be giuen, the two matrons were discharged free, and he confirmed a cuckold by the order of the Court.

Whereupon such poeticall bzaines as were resident in the Citty, to whome intelligence was giuen of the circumstances, rymed vpon the Haberdashers fortune, and his wifes behauiour, the Schoole-boys sung ballads thereof in euery stræte, and for nine dayes there was no talke in request, but to discourse how the Haberdasher was knighted. The waggish mates who were Dobsons fellow schollers set their heades together, deuising how they might procure him the blocke, which they did thinke might easily be effected, if they could contriue any pageant, whereby to belwray the Haberdashers disgrace, and impose it vpon him: for their maister was so much his friend, that he would not spare any of them to satisfie him for any offence by them committed to his dishonour, and so at last they concluded, some night, when the strætes were at quiet, and none to disturbe them, they would fasten to the appendix ouer the Haberdashers doore a paire of bulls hoznes, with a pageant betwixt them, wherein they caused to be painted a man in his shoppe selling hattes, and a Butcher in a parlour with his wife, his one arme folding and embzacing her about the middle, and in his other hand he held a mastiffe dog in a string. Ouer their heads was hanging the similitude of a bird singing vpon a howthorne, and on his crest hee

D had

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had curiously portrayed a redde and gréene bunch of feathers like a combe, forth of the which sprouted a sayre paire of seemely hoznes, of a bzanded colour. This they got set on by the helpe of a Smith of their acquaintance, and who bare some tooth against the poore Haberdasher, that so bolstered the head of his hammer, that it forced in the naile, without any noyse making : And vnderneath the pageant they placed these few lines witten in parchment as followeth, subscribing George Dobsons name thereunto.

Who hattes is heere disposde to buy,
These hornes to him such happe escry,
That heere no hattes are to be solde,
Vnlesse it be for some cuckolde.

Such is the maister of this shoppe,
Such shall they be that with him choppe
Or change an olde hatte for a new,
His bargaine he may happily rew.

When on his browes are to be scene,
Such hornes as these and them betweene:
These glorious ensignes of a knight,
Who perisht his weapons in a fight,

Which he commenst against his wife,
With whom he had a doubtfull strife:

But she got victory on the morne,
And reard these trophees vp in scorne,

His feeble fight for to bewray,
Who playd the coward, and ranne away:
If he deny this to be true,

The Chancery Rolles can to you shew.

That he adiudged is to be,
A cuckold of the best degree:
And we as Heraulds him assigne

These

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These armes, for now, and after time.

Thus is he bounden to his frends,

That to him such great fauour lends:

But you (good cuckold) take your sleepe,

The Butchers dog your doore doth keepe:

And when you ride to *Hexam* faire,

The maister will himselfe be there.

And thus wishing all health to your hornes,

I bid you good morrow,

George Dobson.

When these bzaue wagges had perfourmed all these their deuises, for that instant they went euery man his way home to bed: on the next morrow, it being sunday, the Haberdasher and his family kept their beddes longer than on the weeke dayes they had bene accustomed, not hauing any greater businesse to goe about befoze seruice time, than onely to make their maisters apparrell ready, and wearied with ouer-labouring themselues the weeke pcedent, they slept it out till halfe houre past seauen, all which time the doores being shut, the signe of the hozne gaue a glorious shew to the passengers that came by, whercof there was good stoze that morning, for it was at that instant the weeke wherein the Assises were holden at Dunholme, and the Towne (in regard thereof) was full of strangers: no man passed by but hee surueighed the ignominy of the poze Haberdasher, reading the verses vnder set so many as could, others that had no skill in letters, got them perused by such as could, and as they vnderstode the contents, euery man blessed his forehead from the Haberdasher and his hattes, laughing apace, and making good spozte at the conceit of the ieast. After a while, the last come of his appzentices, whose custome was to be first vp, and to make the fires,

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hearing such noise and concourse of people about the shop, came hastily rushing to the doores, and unbolting the same, set them open, to see what the stirre might be: but as the doores fell open, he might easily perceiue the cause of such assembling of the people, and as one distracted with this sodaine aspect, he stode amongst them as one who at the sight of Gorgons head had thereby bene transformed into a pillar of stone: the people laughed a good deale the more at his astonishment, whereby the more boyes amazement and shame increased: but recollecting his spirits, he paced vp the staires to his maisters chamber, where he was in bed with his honest mistris, by whose carefull indeuour hee was promoted to the order of the forked knights, whose scutchion and coate armour is the bugle horne. The Haberdasher nothing lesse expecting, was by his apprentice informed of all what was to be scene: at the relation whereof he leaped forth of his bed, reaching to his sword, which hung besides him in the chamber, and casting onely his gowne about him, without any other clothes, he ranne downe the staires, as a man newly bereft of his wittes, and in furious and most terrible manner assaulting the hornes, hee all to batterd and cut them from the doores, and tearing off the scrowle, he rent it into peeces: at which spectacle the people were ready to die with laughing. But the Haberdasher hauing got the field, and giuen his enemies the ouerthrow, not so much as bidding his neighbours good morrow, he returned againe into his house, so afflicted with shame and griefe, as all that day he coulde not acquiet himselfe, but fared vp and downe like a bedlam, exclaiming against his wife, and accursing the time wherein he came first acquainted with her, thus (by her lewd and naughty carriage) to become the scozne of the worlde: but shee with gentle and calme speeches sought

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sought to temper his passions, praying him to pardon what was past, and shee would vow and promise for ever hereafter, to live so soberly and so modestly, as hee should thinke himselfe sufficiently satisfied for his former misdemeanour: and further also she perswaded him not to permitte so shamefull a disgrace to passe unreuenged, and therefore shee moued him to charge sir *Thomas* with the same before the Deane and Chapter of the house, assuring him, that they would enforce him vpon his conscience to disclose so much as hee knew thereof, for (sayde she) albeit the boy be very waggish, and apt enough to execute so much knauery as he can bethinke, yet do I not perswade my selfe that he could inuent this, and hang it vp in such a sort, without the assistance of some more subtle bzaime than his owne, and therefore sir *Thomas* being accused thereof before his maisters, will eyther confesse the same vpon their iniunction and commaund, (if he haue bene a factor therein:) or otherwise, if he be ignorant, yet shall he be urged (for his owne discharge) to constrain his nephue to unfold the truth of the whole matter.

The poore soule not considering that this course was still a meane to publish and divulge his further infamie, followed his wiues aduice, and waited his time without acquainting sir *Thomas* of his intent, he repaired to the Deane at such time, when hee and the residue of the prebends were assembled in their Chapter-house, to confer of certaine leases to be demised, and the reformation of some disorders in the Church-men: hee being admitted into the Chapter house, requested M. Deanes and their fauours, desiring that sir *Thomas* might bee called before them, that he might liberally disburse his minde, and freely lay open his griefe withall, beseeching them that according to their accustomed sinceritie and pious consi-

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derations, they would grant him iustice againſt ſir Thomas, ſo farre as the equitie of his cauſe might ſeem to require, which they promiſed to doe; and ſending for ſir Thomas, who immediatly preſented himſelfe, they willed the Habberdasher to proceed with what hee had to ſay who amply related at large the ſetting vp of the hoxnes, with the ſcrowles annexed, and the ſhame hee ſuſtained thereby, and adding, he ſayd; ſir Thomas this was either properly your own act, or otherwiſe it was done by your direction, for vnto the ſcrole was ſubſcribed the name of your nephew, *George Dobſon*: and therefore good maſter Deane (ſaid he) let ſir Thomas be inioyned to ſhewe his purpoſe therein, and to make me amends, or I ſhall com-
plaine vpon you all to higher powers, who I truſt wil remedie my caſe, and affoord mee law and iuſtice againſt you all, for the neglect of my ſatiſfaction; for you ought to inſtruct ſuch ignozant people (as my ſelfe) not onely by good and wholeſome doctrine, but alſo by the example of a holy and godly life, and it hath not been heard of in any mans age, that euer any ſuch abuſe hath been deu-
ſed by any of the Clergie, as this which hath bene pra-
ctized vpon me: and therefore I ſue to you M. Deane, and the reſt of your brother-hood, that I, as I am pub-
likely diſgraced thereby, ſo at the next time of the Seſſi-
ons, ſir Thomas in the face of the Iudges of Aſſiſes, and the people there aſſembled, ſhall confeſſe his miſdoing, and vpon his knees ſhall aſke me and my wife forgiue-
neſſe, for certainly, I am perſwaded, that albeit his ne-
phew ſeemeth to take it vnto him, yet can it be no other, then ſir Thomas his deuſe: for which (I ſay) if you doe not conſtraine him in this ſozme to ſatiſſie mee, I ſhall ſpeake ſhame of you all, & aſſure my ſelfe that you haue
bene all thereunto aſſenting as much as he, and here-
with in a great chaſe he was ready to depart, without
hearing

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hearing of *Sir Thomas* his reply, either *M. Deanes* verdict, who laughed full heartily at the *Wabberdashers* impatience, and his hot inuective made against *Sir Thomas*. But dissembling it as much as possibly he could, covering his face with his gowne sleeve, hee intreated the *Wabberdashers* placable audience, till *Sir Thomas* had made answer to his obiection; wherein if he did not fully discharge and acquit himselfe, he swoze to him vpon his holinesse, that both *Sir Thomas*, and his Nephew likewise should vndergoe, either that, or any other penance: notwithstanding (said *M. Deane*) that I could wish, you would admit of some other satisfaction more to your owne commoditie, and with more safe escape of your credit. For say that *Sir Thomas* should performe all that you desire, yet if there be any cause of probabilitie, that your wife hath faulted to you, though but in suspect amongst your neighbours, yet this action ministring occasion to strangers to make inquirie of the matter amongst their acquaintances in the towne, and shall thereby vnderstand their censures and opinions, it will but make the infamie the more notozious, that he doth it vpon Injunction, and feare lest that if he should refuse so to doe, he should be depriued of his Benefices and disgraced: others will coniecture, that he doth it the more to notifie your disgrace, and your wifes ill demeanour, to the ende that she perceiuing her shame to be published, may be forced to correct her carriage; for vnlesse my memorie do faile me, I vnderstand by the Chancelor of our spiritnallties, that too much hath bene proued against her. And if *Sir Thomas* then should first acknowledge the setting vp of the said hoznes which stuffeth this your stomake, and it can digest no better course but renenge, and after that he hath made the same acknowledgement, shall reply and inferre, that hee hath done no more then
hath

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hath bene proued in open Court, to bee due to such dishonest dealings, and shall also adduce the same Testificants, that were witnesses against her in the Chancery, where will then your amends be had, shall not then your matter be worse then at the beginning?, yea certainly. But howsoever, I am very willing that you haue iustice, and whatsoeuer penaltie the law will impose for so indigne an action if he cannot cleare himselfe hee shall abide it, but tis conuenientt we put him to his purgation, and heare what answer he can make, and turning his face toward sir *Thomas*, he thus framed his speech.

I doe not a little meruaile, that you sir *Thomas*, should shew your selfe so scarce of reason, or ciuilitie; nay, so void of the feare of God and the respect of your function, and the good estimate of vs all, whose credites must needs be blemished, if you haue had a hand herein, or meddled in such irreligious complots, to the vtter defamation of any person, with such hazzard of ther liues and soules. For if on the shame therof they had laid violent hands on them selues, desperately kild ech other, what a horrible sin had you bene guiltie of and attaint? I grant it is your office, *Vitia improbare, turpitudinem, redarguere, & fratrem peccantem admonere* : but it is to be done *Suauiter & sine amaritudine*, and with *Noahs* blessed sonne we must rather take the mantle from our owne backs, to couer therewith our brothers nakednesse, then with wicked *Cham*, lay open our fathers shame to the view of the world; which if we doe, we are to expect no better reward then was his, to wit, the malediction of our heavenly and celestiall father, and therefore without inference of many circumstances, if you be guiltie I doe charge you vpon your conscience, Priest-hood, and the dutie you owe vnto God and our fellowship, in a word sincerely to confesse it, and if you be ignozant thereof or not assenting thereto,

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to, your oath shall suffice to satisfie both vs and this honest man; and therewith he caused a booke to be carryed to Sir *Thomas*, wherevpon he deposed as followeth: By the contents of this holy Bible, by the loue I owe vnto Almighty God, and by my obedience vnto this place and societie, vpon the integritie of my conscience, and the honoꝛ of my Priest-hood: I am innocent of euery paticular wherewith this man chargeth me, and this is the first time that euer I heard of it. And also I protest, that if my Nephew haue bene an Agent herein, I shall first giue him such punishment as he hath deserued, and after I shall exclude and renounce him for euer: and therewith he kissed the booke, and surrendzed it againe. Whereat good-man *Cole* was cleane quatted, and not able to bring any further pꝛoofe, departed a moze knowne cuckolde than befoze, and so continued all his life long.

Sir *Thomas* being also dismissed from the Chapter house, could not be contented untill he had further inquired of this matter, and so going to the schoule, he examined his nephew of the same, in the pꝛesence of his maister, and the schollers, of whome there were diuerse, which did euidence against him, both falsely, and vpon malice, especially they who were the pꝛincipall offenders, as a *Maner* and *Painters* sonnes, who faced him downe, that he bespoke them to pꝛouide him of the signes which were set vp, and which they (mistrusting no such matter) assured him. But hereunto he answered with an vndaunted courage, that they iniuriously belyed him, and alledged so many reasons as his childish braine could propound to impꝛoue their assertions, but no reason would excuse him, their testimony was allowed, and he sharply beaten, which he not knowing how to auoyde, he toke patiently for the time, yet he protested that he was not on-
lie

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lie innocent, but ignozant of the matter, and resolved, that seeing it was so, that it was all one with him, to be a thiefe, and to be but onely suspected, he altered his purpose as *Ployden* did the Case, reuenged his owne iniuries, without respect of either his vncles pleasures, or his maisters punishments, and so that day in their going home to dinner, hee dealt his beneuolence, and payed so soundly his false witnessses, that he caused them to sing *miserere*, and befoze his vnkle to confesse the trueth of the matter, and their principall intent. Whereof his vnkle much reioycing, and vnderstanding his innocencie, moued them to declare the same befoze their maister, first taking his promise to pardon their offence: for (saith hee) their acknowledgement shal free them from punishment, which their maister granting, they vnfolded euery circumstance, which he particularly related againe to maister Deane and the prebends, who much commending his nephew, willed sir *Thomas* to place him at the singing schoule, and promised, that so soone as he could keepe any consort, or beare a part, they would benefice him in the Cathed:all. For which he humbly thanking them, departed home in great content and peace of minde.

¶ How Dobson reuenged the quarrell of his friend vpon the Vther. Chap. 4.



George Dobson, euery day after this, so long as he continued at the reading schoule entred the lists, and fought the combate with some one or other of his fellowes, wherein fortune so much fauoured him, as hee alwayes graunted him victoꝝy, and hee

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hee brought them vnto such slavery and subiection, that howsoever he used them, complaine they durst not, vntlesse the hurt were so apparant as that it could not be recovered from their maisters sight, neyther then vpon examination dared any of them take him therewith, vntlesse himselfe did confesse the matter, which hee alwayes did with such dexteritie, as he alwayes sufficiently discharged himselfe, and thrust the blame vpon the party iniured, whereunto no man used any contradiction: and the maister, in respect hee had found forth their practises against him in former time, the rather tooke his word, and the lesse beleued them, whereby ensued to him a great deale of quiet: for they seeing him so stand to himselfe, man forth his owne matter, and the maister so much on his side, that it was not possible to separate him from his good conceiued opinion, by little and little they desisted from further abusing him, contenting themselves with onely laughing at him in secret. His vncke also became so hopefull of his well doing, that he likewise turned a deafe eare to all complaints that came against him, imagining that such were rather brged of mallice, as in former times than vppon any desert, and so whenas he could persittly write and reade, hee remoued him thence to the singing schoule, where he profited so well, that in short time he was fit for a Chozisters rowme, which to him was granted vpon the first motion made, the Deane himselfe installed him, and of his owne proper charge furnished him with gowne and surplesse, commaunding his vncke to reserue the benefit of his place for his preferment to the vniuersity of *Cambridge* or *Oxford*, when hee should be sufficient to be sent thither. His vncke no small man in regard Maister Deane so much respected his nephew, fitted him of euery thing conuenient to his estate, not permitting him to want any thing that the boy wold

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demaund or say was needeful : and perceiuing his vncke
so much to dote vpon him, he plaid the wagge with moze
libertie then befoze, and being growne vp to a good stur-
dy ladde, he first so handled the matter, that hee became
captaine of Schooles, and so hampered the whole multi-
tude as no man dared to offend him, but studied by all
possible means to inuest themselves into his fauor and
friendship, whereof they being possessed, thought them-
selues as sure as if they had bene shutt vp in Clarke ca-
stel, for to his fauourites none presumed to offer iniury,
or make complaint vpon them, neither the Vsher aduen-
tured to punish for what offence soeuer; but by his con-
uincency, so much he feared his displeasure, whereof he
had vpon occasions tasted, and hauing bene once vnder
him at shrift, hee found him so strict in the imposition of
penaunce, that hee neuer desired afterward to vse him
any moze for a ghostly father, and the matter came thus
to effect. There was in the schoole one *Raikesbaines*, whom
Dobson highly loued, and moze esteemed of, than of all o-
ther fellows, both in regard hee was bozne in the coun-
try, and also for that his manners and conditions were
moze correspondent to his humour than any others in
that place : This *Raikesbaines* one day when hee supposed
that they shold haue licence to pastime themselves in the
fields, brought with him to the schoole his artillery, pur-
posing to bestow that after none in shooting, but his ex-
pectations proued frustrate, for their superiour Maister
Bromeley was at the same instant by his acquaintance
inuitd into the towne to a banquet, where he concei-
uing to be longer detained from schoole than he could haue
wished, referred to the vsher the whole charge thereof,
taking with him onely *Dobson*, because hee was a plea-
santly disposed guest, and apt to incite laughing, as also
hauing a tunable voyce to assist him, if his company cal-
led

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led for a Song, the *Uther* set in the top of his triumph, to manifest his authority, was so precise, that at no intreaty of gentlemen he would condescend to let the scholars goe abroad, notwithstanding diuers of good respect made sute for the same, all of whom he shakd off with an absolute deniall; but some of them scozning to be too impoztunate, either to haue him thinke that they respected to rest beholden to him for so simple a fauour, sent to master *Bromeley* himselfe, who willingly assented to their requests and dismissed the schollers, notwithstanding master *Uther* his repugnancie to the contrary, and albeit that the day was farre gone befoze they were set at libertie, yet *Raikebaines* procured some of his best acquaintances to spend so much thereof as remained in shooting.

And returning home towards night, in a valley betwixt the riuer and the wood, which banketh the riuer all alongst as it enuironeth the citty, he espied *M. Uther* at his meditations, whose pzelence his stomacke was not able to digest for that hee had so peremptozily abridged them of that dayes recreation. And so speaking to his companions, by my trueth (saith he) I discouer a *Woodcocke* by the water side, and I could find in heart to pick his head to the bones, and giue my dogges his flesh, so doe I loue him, I would I were in *France*, vpon condition his nose were of equall file with a natural *Woodcockes* bill, I should make a commoditie of his picture, I am assured, if not of the reall substance: Well sir *William*, though I be not of strength sufficient to deale with you at handy stroakes, and beat wit into your wooden head, yet my heart is good enough to hazard with you at the speares point: and as *Hercules*, vnable with speede of foot to ouertake the *Centaure*, running away with his fairest *Deinira*, sent a messenger to stay him till his comming; so my selfe acknowledging my imbecillitie and weakenesse

Dobsons drie Bobs.

to dis-able me to close with you in armes, will neuer thelesse fight as farre off, and dispatch my poste, by whose speedy blast, you shall be let to vnderstand how dearly I affect you: and therewithall pulling an arrow from vnder his girdle, he sent it with a right good will, to bid sir *William* good Euen-song, which lighting vppon the skirt of his gowne behinde, only feared him without any further harme. But hee turning about, and seeing from whence the flight was sent, set himselfe backe to meete them at the bridge foote, where making inquirie of the matter, the whole case was unfolded and *Rackebains* attainted.

The next morrow he complained to *M. Bromley*, and caused poore *James* to be lashed, at which *Dobson* stooping made no great exterior shewe, yet purposed in heart to take a condigne reuenge vpon sir *William* when opportunitie serued, which he perfozmed within a short time after, as you shall heare.

Sir *William* had a chamber nere to *M. Deanes* own lodging, and the foze-dore opening into the great yarde, (commonly called the Abbey garth, it had also a backe dore, by the which he might passe thzough *M. Deanes* kitchin garden into the Cathedzall, as also when it pleased him to take the benefite of the same, there hee might walke, or exercise any other recreation by *M. Deanes* licence, who soz that he esteemed him a very honest yong man, and a painefull in schoule matters, authozised him to vse the easement thereof: in a cozner of this Garden was built a house foz *M. Deane* his Poultrie, where hee had alwayes great stoze feeding foz his pzouision, both *Turkies*, *Capons*, *fzezants*, and other of like sozt. *Dobson* therfore vppon this iniury done to his friend, continually troubled his bzaine foz reuenge, and after aduise-ments, he supposed he could no way so sufficiently come quit

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quit with him, as to deuise some meane whereby to procure him M. Deanes alienation of good will, and losse of good liking; being therefore very intimate and familiar with the Boy that attended him in his chamber, hee was particularly informed of sir *Williams* whole course and demeanour, and of all the benefits of his lodging. *Dobson* then thinking that in respect sir *William* onely had access into this garden, that if he could drawe the boyes assent vnto the practise of any knauery, either in the garden or about the Poultrie, that there might be occasions good enough to set master Deanes stomacke against him: became so entire with the boy as in short space he promised to concurre with *Dobson* for the making vpp of any ieast, that might not tend to his own extreame prejudice, and his maisters vtter infamy. For which *Dobson* protesting to regratiate both him, and to haue care of the circumstances, lay still in waite, when he might take sir *William* napping, or fittely effect any thing whereby to worke him some notable shame; in the winter time when a snowe fell, he came to the Chamberlaine desiring him to afford him a paire of sir *Williams* shoes, and that the same night when sir *William* should be asleepe, that he would suffer him to enter the wooddeyard, where (saith he) I wil be so hardy as to take away one of master Deanes fattest Turkies, wherewith we will make merrye and laugh in some conuenient place in the towne. God forbid said the Chamberer, for when the Turkie is wanting they will straight suspect me, because I onely, and my maister the Deanes Poulterer excepted, haue recourse into that place, and for my maister they know him honest enough, neither will they conceiue any iealousie of him, but presently they will accuse and also cause mee to be punished. Not so quoth *Dobson*, for to preuent them therein I desire to haue sir *Williams* shoes, that they may
 see

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ſee that the print left in the ſnowe is of a mans ſote, not of a boyes, which ſight will assuredly acquit thee: and knowing ſir *Williams* honeſtie in all former times, they will be brought to that exigent, that they ſhall not know what to doe or ſay: and hereupon they will be enforced to conceale it, leſt if accusing thy maſter, the blame be thruſt vpon themſelues. The boy loath to diſpleaſe *Dobſon*, or to hazard his goodwill, conſcended to his deſires, lent him a paire of his maſters ſhoes, and at his time appointed permitted him to haue free paſſage through the houſe into the woodyard, from whence hee tooke away the fatteſt *Turkie* to his knowledge, and quietly conueying him by the ſame paſſage, leauing the ſhoes with the boy in the Chamber, hee carried the *Turky* to be dzeſſed in the towne at a *Cokes* houſe of his acquaintance, where with hee feaſted ſuch of his friends as he made choiſe of, laughing to conſider how he intended to blonke ſir *William*: ſo when the morning came he conueyed himſelfe be- times to his vncles chamber, which was alſo in the ſame court, and had one window lighting into the ſame wood- yard, thither he ſecretly conueyed himſelfe to attend the *Poulterers* comming to ſerue his birdes, who about his ordinary time came to bring them meate, and to ſee if he had all his number, where he miſſed (by the head) the *Turky* that was ſtollen. This want being extraordi- nary, amazed him: and hee could not deuise how it ſhould come to paſſe, if either ſome weaſell, ſkot, or poulecat had not deuoured her. But then againe he conſidered that ſo little a beaſt could not ſo diſpatch him, but that there would haue bene left ſome remainder; neither could he diſcerne which way any ſuch vermine could haue acceſſe vnto that place. To thinke that he was ſtollen, was but a meere imagination, as he ſuppoſed, ſince there was no way left to theeues, ſo that what to cenſure aright hee was

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was altogether ignorant.

But while that he stood in this doubt and perplexitie, incertaine what to do or determine upon, suddenly turning himselfe about, he obserued in the snow the print of a mans foot, which he traced from thence to *Sir Williams* backe doore, where he perceiued the entry of the same, and the exit likewise, which put him into a greater extasie then befoze: sometimes he thought without further question this way hath my Masters Turkey beene conveyed: and yet I muse who should do it, for I may be well assured that *Sir William* would not so tricke mee for a world of riches, neither hath it beene done by his consent either knowledge: for he promised to my Master on his credit, that no other but himselfe only and his boy that euer should come into that place, and then to charge him with so foule a fact were great folly, and to my selfe it might procure great displeasure. For first, if I should obiect this against him, neither will my Master giue any eare thereto, either beleue it, so highly standeth *Sir William* in his fauour: neither will he for any time hereafter thinke well of me, for bzoaching such a slander. And holding this no expedient course, befoze he proceeded any further in the matter, he returned into the kitchen, where he related to the Cookes what had chanced, requesting them to aduise him what to do, who came all forth with him into the wood-yard to see how the case stood, & could as little say to the matter as himselfe: diuers were their verdicts, and they varied all in their opinions: some stimulated him to charge *Sir William* with the stealth, others wished him to beware what he did: some aduised him to informe their Master, but the most part gaue him counsell to let it quietly passe, without making further to do about it, and rather to giue diligent attendance to the rest: alleadging that if it were a stealth, seeing no stirre

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to be made concerning this, the thiefe would hazard to haue another, when he might be apprehended, and hee onely blamed and punished who had committed the trespassse. But while they were thus diuided in their iudgements, and as it were in mutinies among themselves, *Dobson* as though he had been ignozant of the whole case looking forth at his *Uncles* chamber window, desired to know the cause of such their debatinges, whereof they made a bryefe rehearfall. Alas, God helpe you, are you so simple as to thinke your *Maisters* Turkey gone by any other meane, then by him the print of whose foot you find in the snow: nay assure your selues, that whosoeners shewe that impzeSSION doth fitte, hee is the person which hath committed the theft. And I would counsell you to take heed how you charge *Sir William* therewith: for albeit there be probable signes that it hath beene conueied thozow his chamber, yet his honesty and good carriage is of such regard, both with your *Master*, and the whole, as you shall incurre great blame by such complaint, vnlesse you were able to proue it against him, and therein I do suppose you will find difficulties, for he hath neuer yet bene conuicted of any misdemeanoz, and therefore take good aduise befoze you call him into question. And in my opinion, to free you of your iealosie of him, it is the best course, to borrow one of his shoes, by which you may take a sure trial whether it be he or not: and so may you deale with moze securitie, both in respect of him and your selues. This counsell was contenting to them all, and according to good reason. Knocking therefore at his chamber doze, he being yet in bed, they mooued his chamberer for one of his shoes, who suspecting the cause of their request, much against his stomacke brought to them one of the same which *Dobson* had vsed in the theft: which agreeing equally with the print, they were al both
very

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Very sorrowfull and ashamed in *Sir Williams* behalfe : but *Dobson* was not a little ioyfull to see his devise take such fortunate effect. The *Poulterer*, as hee whom it more concerned then the rest, called vpon *Sir William*, and after some inuective speeches, questioned him of the *Turkies* stealth : but he much meruailing why they should so strictly take him, when they had opened vnto him the likelihoods, inducing them to charge him, protested vpon the holy Bible, that himselfe was cleere and innocent of such felony : and assured them further, that neither man nor child had entrance that way by his meanes, or vpon his knowledge : and as for my boy (saith he) I dare also giue to you my word, that hee neuer commeth in place, but when my selfe am present ; that is, when wee goe and come from seruice. But all this would not suffice to excuse *Sir William*, *Dobson* so bugged the *Poulterer* to informe *Maister Deane* thereof : for (saith he) if you shall faile to do it, I will cause my vncle to complain of you : for otherwise *Sir William* clearing himselfe in this manner, it may be supposed, that my vncle or I are acknowne thereof, because our chamber window hath a prospect into the wood-yard ; but by your patience sir, you shall not blocke vs so : and therefore as you will answer it when you shall heare thereof, it is your fairest meane to tell first, lest you bee let to vnderstand the same to your displeasure. And thus backed with *Dobsons* threatnings, he acquainted his *Maister* with all as you haue heard. *Maister Deane* enraged against *Sir William*, sent for him, and in the presence of the *Prebends* examined him of the same, who protested as befoze, that he did not know thereof. Well, (said *Maister Deane*) *Sir William*, we will take your word, and pardon the fault, but yet the probability of the matter maketh vs to misdoubt you ; and from hencefozth wee will interrupt you

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of that walke, and intreat you to take a little more paine and goe about. At which sentence passed, *Sir William* inwardly repined, that the peoples eares should be filled with these suspitions, and to haue his doores shut vp. But howsoeuer it greened him, he must inforce his patience: and so with solempne protestation of his innocency, for that time he departed home, both sorrowfull and ashamed.

Dobson well pleased to haue procured him this drie Bob at *Maister Deanes* hands, was yet notwithstanding not fully satisfied with this reuenge of his friends wrong, but determined yet further, when time serued, to pay him all that he had promised, scorning to dye in his debt: and therefore continuing stil friendly with his Chamberlaine, he vnderstood that *Sir William* was about a wife, a Marchants daughter in the Colone, a pretty filgig girle, and who to humoz *Sir William*, would many times repaire to his chamber, especially in the winter euenings, when the neighbours could not so wel obserue her walkes as at other times when the dayes were longer, and the euenings more lightsome: Oftentimes she would keepe him company all the night, vntill five of the clocke in the morning, at which houre she commonly departed, that she might be at home before her father was vp & came abroad forth of his chamber, who knew nothing of her vagaries which her mother permitted, vpon the confident trust she had in *Sir William* his honest vsage of her, who had moued her husband and her selfe in the matter, crauing their fauourable assents, of whom they conceiued a singular good liking, and desired to accomplish the match with him, conditionally that *Maister Deane* would assure him his place by patent during his life, but thereof he was quite hopelesse in respect of his late accident, and dared not to make suit for it;

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it; and thereupon they deferred to giue their consents, especially the merchant himselfe, but the maide being much affected toward him, and longing to be a mistress in the Abbey, frequented his company as befoze is said: whercof *Dobson* being perfectly instructed by the chamberer, laboured his wittes, without intermission, how to gall sir *Williams* delicacies with some bitter sirrope of disgrace: and hauing a nimble head and working bzaïne, he thus effected his dyist, he learned of the boy what night they had appointed for their next meeting at his maisters chamber, which the boy discovered vnto him: but whie desirest thou to know, said he, fearing some such pretence as befoze he had drawne him vnto? Nothing said *Dobson*, but if then thou couldst be absent, I should be gladde to haue thy company at the signe of the Woare, where I haue set downe that night to meete certaine Gentlemen of the countrey, to whome I haue promised a song, and a set of musicke, and I shall thinke my selfe much in thy debt if thou wilt be there to sing the *Deane* amongst vs, which if thou shalt doe, the least parte of their liberalitie shall not be thine.

Say no moze (sayd the boy) for if mistress *Lane* hold her appoyntment, and lodge with my maister all the night, so soone as they are gone to bed, I will not faile to be one among you, but if they sit vp all night, then I cannot be away, for that I must be sent into the towne for wine, or some other conceit, as they shall thinke good. Why then saide *Dobson*, this is all that we may resolue, that if she come according to promise, and occasion serue that thou mayest present thy selfe with vs, then we shall haue thy company; and if otherwise, thou shalt certifie me, to the end that we may prouide another to supply thy want: Whereof be you assured saide the boy, and make no doubt: that sufficeth, quoth *Dobson*, and so farewell. The boy

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tooke his direct course to his mistris chamber, and *Dobson* his to certaine of his dearest friends, whom he desired to afford him their assistance in the stealing of a Diere the next tuesday ensuing, for saith he, a kinswoman of mine in the country who longeth for venison, hath sent to mee to provide her. I haue both intreated for her, and offered money, but cannot procure her a simple fee, and rather than she shall receiue harme for the want thereof, I will hazard to fetch one forth of Beares parke, so I may intreate your good helpes. And if fortune fauour our attempts, looke what shall be moze than to stay her longing, shall be at your owne disposing, neither shall you feare any inconuenience to come thereof: for if that our chaunce should be so euill as to be taken, I trust well that my buckle will worke our attonement with Maister Deane, and set vs free from punishment, and in respect of that fauor I shall rest wholly yours at all times to pleasure you. *Dobsons* reputation was such amongst the cavalieroes in the citty, that he could not so easily request, as they assent to effect his desires, assuring that to do him anie pleasure, they were all at all times ready to abide any penalty of the law, without expectation of fauour, or forbearaunce: for he saide, he who will stand forth to help his friends necessity for any feare, is not worthy the name of a good fellow, and therefore make choice of your time, and we wil not be wanting to goe with you, which they perfozmed according to his assignement. And by the helpe of their greyhounds, they quickly had killed their game, and trussing her vpon a horse, they brought her safely away, the Keepers that night neglecting their watch. *Dobson* directed them to an Inne in the towne, where he desired them to attend his comming, which should be within an houre after. And when he once supposed them to be safe in the house, he went to the Keepers

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ers Lodge in the Parke, willing them to rise, for this night, saith hee, one of your diere is slaine and carried hence, as I coniecture, for comming this evening to my vncle *Pharaoes*, I mette her vpon the shoulders of foure good fellows, and (to my iudgement) she is carried to sir *Williams* chamber, the vsher of the singing schoole, so that if your selfe did not bestow her vpon him, I beleue that there you shal find both hir and the parties that haue committed the slaughter; for among them I could perfectly discerne sir *William*, and his brother *Robert*: what the other were I could not so well obserue, for they shunned my way a little, and my selfe was loath to be espied of them: and therefore now that I haue discharged my loue and duety to maister *Deane*, and my good will to you: deale you herein as reason and the cause requireth, and herewith he departed posting after his companions as he could, vntill hee came to the Inne, where hee had appointed them to stay, and sir *Williams* boy to meeete him, who had continued there the most parte of the night to attend his comming. *Dobson* commaunding the cookes to make ready the venison, taking his companion aside, asked him if mistris *Iane* were with sir *William* or not: yea and by this asleepe betwixt his armes: and so let her be, quoth *Dobson*, we shall fare the better for their sakes, God send them toy at their arising, and so going into the company againe, they fell to sporting vntill the venison was made ready.

The keeper of *Bearesparke* much moued at *Dobsons* relation, without further delays leapt from his bed, and hauing put vpon him his apparrell, away he pased to *Dunholme* in haste, neuer so much as bzeathing till hee came to the *Deanes* lodging, where knocking at the gates, hee commaunded the Porter to let him in, for he had serious matters to deliuer to his maister, and that

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presently, being brought to his bed chamber, and admitted to speake, he made rehearfall of *Dobsons* report, further annexing, that if it would please his worshippe to arise, and to make search in sir *Williams* chamber, at this instant wee shall take all them who haue done iniurie to your worship, and murdred the game. The Deane believing that euery thing was euen so as he had saide, hauing him in suspition for his Turkey, arose in a great chafe against sir *William*, and caused his men to call vp so many of the prebends as were then in the towne, to assist him. They much maruelling what occasions he had to imploy them at that time of the night: they made great haste to come to his lodging, whither when they were all arriued, he declared the cause of his disturbing of them so extraoꝛdinarily, craving their pardon, because (saith he) if I should tolerate him to proceede in these courses, hee will doe shame to vs all, in the face of the world; and for that you shall net suppose that I runne against him vpon meere suggestions, or splenatiue informations, I haue therefore requested your presences, that you might be eye-witnesses of his abuses done against me: for notwithstanding that by my meanes he was not onely placed in the Schole, as you all know, but also was allowed the pleasures of my gardens, and orchards, vntill such time as my Turkie was (thzough his default) taken away and stolne, which I pardond him with the only abridge-ment of my garden contents, and the pleasures he thereby receiued: but in requitall of my benignities he hath this night with other his confederates and loose fellows gone into my Parke and Stolne away one of my diere, and at this instant, in his chamber, is feasting there with the associates of his knaueries, whither I request you all to accompany me, that they may be all arrested, and vndergoe such penalty as the law to such offenders hath limited,

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mitted, for I perceiue, that further to forbear him, is but to stimulate and egge him forwards to all other sortes of disorder. Unto which his speech, they giuing a generall applause, sette forward with him to search for *Williams* chamber, who (poore man) fearing no such matter, was layd arme in arme with his sweete mistris *Lane*: and as he supposed, secure enough. But we see no man so much in danger as he who dzeadeth none. Sir *William* embracing his sweet mistris is awaked forth of his dreams, and commanded to set open his doores that master *Deane* may come in: O good Lord, who can explaine the perplexities he conceiued at the name of Master *Deane*? Alas sayd he to mistris *Lane*, what shall we now do? or course shall we take to keepe you from his sight? for at the backe doore I can not dismisse you, for he hath caused that passage to be barred vp so strongly, as that it can not be broken: nay, and perhappes his busines is into the wooddeyard, and then that were the worst of all other courses, conuetiance I haue none to hide you in, and if I shoulde thrust you into my study, it is to be doubted that there he will finde you: and I had rather go bare foote to *Rome*, than that hee should so cuertake vs, for we were not only vndone, but shamed for euer. It is wonder to mee what hee hath to do with me thus late in the night, or what should moue him to come hither in this manner, vnlesse some of purpose haue giuen him intelligence of your being here.

The yong girle not able to aduise him, quaking for feare, and ready to sincke with shame, prayed him to thrust her vnder the bed, for sure saith she, he wil haue no occasion to see there for any thing, and casting her cloathes about her as it would be, shee crept vnder the bed her selfe, and sir *William* couered her with an old carpet: but the *Deane* offended that he made no more speed

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to let him into the house, perswading himselfe, that he of purpose kept him there, till he had conueighed his associates and the venison out of sight, commanded his men violently, to breake open the doores, and enter the house; all which they did, and lighting vp torches, gaue way for M. Deane and the Prebends to come in; who strictly examined sir *William* of his companions and the venison, charging him to tell them where hee had bestowed them, and it. (But sir *William* God wot) though his conscience testified vnto him that he was accessarie to no such action, yet vpon this heauie taxe of M. Deane, hee was ready to fall dead befoze them, swearing and protesting that he neuer came into that parke, day nor night about any such purpose, humbly praying M. Deane to pardon him, and to alter such his conceits, soz (saith he) I am a true and iust man. But at this reply, the Keeper assured M. Deane that the very same night one Deare was killed, and that he who told him thereof, could not be mistaken of sir *William*. M. Deane there vpon, notwithstanding all his solempne protestations, commanded to search euery corner of the chamber, and vnder the bed, where they found the poore Doe in a colde palsey, who for shame to be so taken, sownded in the presence of them all, and was ready to giue vp the ghost: sir *William* became mute, and fared like a man desfraughted. The Deane and Prebends blamed him very much, and thzeatned to punish these disorders, yet all did their deuors to bring *Mistresse lane* to her perfect senses againe. And when she was recouered they sent her home to her mothers house, willing her mother to respect moze her daughters honestie and good name. *Dobson* and his associates were thrust in among the searchers, and laughed their parts at sir *William* his interprize. The Deane and Prebends returned home to their beds, so blanked with
this

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this bob, that they could not tell what to conceite other, then that some mad braine fellow, either spiting at, or meaning to make a scozne of sir *William*, had of purpose plotted it : but befoze the morning was blased through the citie the whole accedents, at which a number made good pastime. Poore *Mistresse Jane* kept her closet, ashamed to peepe out of dwores, untill her father taking the matter in snuffe, went to *M. Deane* and the *Wzebends*, desiring them to constraine sir *William* to make amends to his daughter, and in the sight of the people to marry her: whith they compelled him to doe, and to gratifie the *Barchant*, they confirmed him a pattent of the *Wsher-ship* as largely as he desired and contrary to his expectation. After this the truth of the matter was published, neither did any man disallowe of *Dobsons* bob, and sir *William* euer after was carefull not to offend him, or any of his friends.

How *Dobson* deceived his friend *Raikebaines* of a Pudding, and how hee shut him vp in the Candle cupboard.

The fifth Chapter.



Dobson seeing his matches to make so wel and his contrivings to come to so good a passe, broke his *Wobbes* on each mans nose, without respect, he spared no persons but as occasion was offered, he played the wagge, sometime in the city, otherwhile in the countrey, by meanes whereof his fame spread it selfe all ouer : and all pleasantly disposed humourists, sought to be acquainted with him, although he were but

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yet a scholler: neither did atchieue any small commendations for his practise against Sir William. But before this he had plotted diuers others in the schools amongst his fellowes, whereof one was this: *Rakebaines* (of whom before we haue spoken) was borne in the countrey five miles distant from *Dunholme*, whither he was sent to the schoole, to be instructed in good letters, and sundry good manners fitting his estate and parentage. He was tabled with a sister of his mothers married to a Lawyer in the Citie, who had also a sonne which daily did accompany him to the schoole, as very a wagge as the best, yet he alwaies more smoothly carried his knaueries then *Rakebaines* did; neuer putting his hand to any action, but when he was assured of another betwixt him & the halter. This *Rakebaines* father being a gentleman of good port and great hospitalitie, kept continually a liberal and bountifull house; and toward Christmas time he killed euery yeare great stoze of beasts. His mother to applaud her sonnes content, at such times alwayes sent to him and her nephew some stoze of puddings: which he, to shew he might bzaue of his mothers respect toward him amongst his fellow scholers, would many times carry with him to the schoole, therewith to bzeake his fast, when the rest were licensed to goe home, or to their Tunes, which ordinarily they were wont to doe at eight a clocke in the morning. So it happened his cousin to be sicke, *Rakebaines* was to goe to schoole alone; he thought it better to carry his bzeakefast with him, then to trouble himselfe to come so farre for it. And because he thought there was nothing so fit for his carriage as a pudding, he desired the maid to bestow one vpon him, which his request she assented vnto. But when it approached nere bzeakefast time, he tooke great care how to haue it safely warmed, and that it might not bee
snatched

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snatched from him : and therefore fearing the disorders of his fellowes , he intreated *Dobson* to afford his assistance , and to stand his friend : which if he should do, he promised to share it equally betwixt them. *Dobson* purposing in stead of an inch to take an ell, and for the whole scarcely to returne the skinne, prepared a place for it before the fire, and would not permit any man to come during the time it was in making hot . And before that it was thoroughly warmed, the clocke stroke eight, and euerie man departed except *Dobson* and *Rakebaines*, who staid expecting til the pudding should be warme enough. *Dobson* hauing the promise of the halfe , late deuising how he might possesse him of the whole : and so when he perceiued it to be hot enough : *James* (saith he) looke out at the window , and see whether any of them be returning to the schoule or not : for if they shall come before we haue made an end, they will so molest vs , that wee shall not cate it in quiet : so that if thou dost espy any of them to be nere hand , wee will conuey our selues into some corner, vntill we haue made dispatch thereof. But whilst *James Rakebaines* was ascending into the window, to do as he was aduised , away goeth *Dobson* with the pudding thorow the Church and Cloister , into the Cannons hall , wherein shutting himselfe, and fast bolting the doores , he feasted himselfe with the whole pudding : but *Rakebanes* in hope to recouer some part at the least , pursued him with buy and cry through Church and Cloister, vntill he came to the Common hall, where finding the doores bolted, he stayed knocking and exclaiming the space of an houre, but could haue no entrance, neither any aunswere. In the meane time while hee there continued rapping and calling to his friend, sometimes imperiously commaunding *Dobson* to part stake, and to make equall diuidence with him : otherwhile intreating

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treating him to reward him with some small portion, who once was owner of the whole. Sir Thomas passing that way from his chamber to the Chancel, hearing him many times to nominate *Dobson*, came to know the cause of his disturbance. *Rakebaines* fully confiding by his helpe to haue either his pudding, or some part thereof restored, disclosed to him all the circumstances aforesaid: who much offended for his wrongs receiued, commaunded *Dobson* to appeare in his likenesse, and to come to his answer: he hearing the voyce of his vncle, came streight to the doores, and unboulting the same, patiently heard all that euer could be objected against him, vnto the which he made this reply. Vncle (saith he) you may do as you see cause, in belouing him or me, but surely he hath forskipped and told to you my tale, for my Aunt *Pharoe* sent me this pudding vpon Saturday last, which I reserued vntill now. And in very deed, because I feared that whilest I were called by my Maister to sing, or other exercise, haply it might haue been stollen from me, I intreated him to giue respect thereto till it were warmed, and to recompence his paines I promised to bestow vpon him some part thereof: but he would needes be his owne caruer, and either haue the greater halfe, or none: which because he refused to stand to my beneuolence, and the pact made betwixt vs, I haue wholly dispatched, and haue left him none thereof: and for this cause he cryeth and exclaimeth against me, as you heare. *Rakebaines* perceiuing by *Dobsons* countenance, that if he should reply against him, or deny any thing which *Dobson* had said to be true, that he should then for euer lose his friendship, seemed to yeld to his affection, and to graunt his defensorie speech for truth, contenting himselfe both to bryoke the iniurie, and eke to beare the blame.

Sir

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Sir Thomas seeing no great cause vppon the rehearfall made by both the parties why to chide his nephew, requested *Rakebaines* to acquiet himselfe for that time, and charged thother no more so to dis-taste his familiar frind: But it was not long before *Dobson* had forgot his vncles strict iniunction, and his promise of better vsing his friends: for it was his humour, neuer to play one shewd turne alone, but being of a scrupulous conscience, hee payed euer his debts double ouer, and scozned to restore the capitall summe without the interest, and therefore once more he made bolde with his fellow, curbing his expectations: and because Lent was at hand, hee prepared him to obserue the fast. This same yere his vncle *Sir Thomas* was chosen Chozaster of the Cathedrall, and to set vp the tapers at the times of seruice, both morning and euening, from the feast of *Saint Martine*, vntill the feast of *March*. *Sir Thomas*, whether it were that letting his bed well in a morning, he was loath to rise so early in that cold season, or otherwise, for that he would haue his nephew to haue experience in these offices, whereunto in future times he might be elected and promoted, and not to be to learne when he should be placed therein. He made him his substitute, and appointed him to lighten and extinguish the tapers and candles, specially in the mornings: which *Dobson* diligently performed with the assistance of his fellowes, who in hope to haue some of the short ends which could no more bee set vp for the Church seruice did dayly both before and after prayers, which were to be done at fixe of the clock in the morning, helpe him in the said office. And principally this *Rakebains* attended him more then any of the rest, to whom in respect of his diligence he had promised the square end of a great taper, at the laying vp of the lights: which when *Dobson* was shutting of the cubbozd, as seeming to haue

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hane forgot his promise *Raikebaines* demaunded. *Dobson* intending to intrappe him, threw it to the further end of the cupbword, so farre, that it was not possible to reach to it, vnlesse that one of them should creepe in, which *Raikebaines* offered to doe, rather than that he would want the commoditie of the candle, and so presently skipped into the candle cupbword, to fetch away the Taper: but *Dobson* lockt fast the doores and departed thence to the schools, leaving *Raikebaines* to play the Cat, and warrant his tapers from the tyranny of the Kattes, where he sate shut vp howling and crying, from halfe houre past fire, vntill almost tenne in the soere one, at which time sir *Thomas* and other the Canons came to put vpon them their Surplises, in which ordinarily they song their Seruice, and which, for readinesse sake, they kept continually lying in pces there.

Raikebaines hearing the sound of voyces, and the noyse of mens fecte, cried forth so lowde as he could, to the great admiration of sir *Thomas*, and the residue of the Cannons, who speaking in at the key hole, asked who it shuld be that was in his candle-cupbword, It is I, quoth *Raikebaines*. And who are you said sir *Thomas*? Iames *Raikebaines* replied he. Alas quoth sir *Thomas*, how camest thou into that place? and how long hast thou sit there? Euer since halfe an houre after fire this morning answered *Raikebaines*, and your nephew *Dobson* shut me heere, because I went into the cupbword to fetch forth the end of a taper which himselfe had promised to bestow vpon me, for helping him to gather and extinguish the lights after prayer. Sir *Thomas* pittying the poore boy, almost starued with cold and hunger, went to seeke for his nephew *Dobson* in the Scholes to set *Raikebaines* at liberty, threatening to punish him for his mis-usage. But *Dobson* excused himselfe, and said that *Raikebaines* leapt into the cupbword contrary

Dobsons drie Bobs.

trary to his will, and swoze that he would not come from thence, vnlesse that he had a whole candle which hee had espied in the furthest cozner, which I neither would, neither durst doe without your consent, and therefore did I thinke it very fit that he should abide your comming, and now it is in your choice to bestow vpon him, or not, and therewith vnlocking the doores, seely *Raiebaines* was scarcely able to crawle forth, his ioynts were so stiffened and benumbed with cold. *Sir Thomas* somewhat to ease his extremities bestowed vpon him a couple of candles, and liberally rewarded *Dobson* with a bobbe vpon the mouth, insomuch as the blood followed his fist, and that done, attiring himselfe in his robes, he went forward to doe his seruice in the Chauncell, leauing *Dobson* and *Raiebaines* further to decide the case betwixt themselves at the candle cupbord.

How *Dobson* reuenged himselfe vpon his vncl.

Chap. 6.



Dobson was much discōtented for the blow giuen vnto him by his vncl, yet considering how well hee had deserued the same, in regard of the iniurie done to his frend, he reconciled himselfe again to *Raiebans*, with promise, that if hee would forgette that discourtesie, he neuer more would wrong, iniurie, or disgrace him, but patronize his cause against all opponents of what sort soeuer, in which he kept touch with him as by the vsage of *Sir William* the Alsher appeared. *Raiebaines* being of a gentle and good nature easily pardoned the offence, and ioyning hands, they protested to continue

Dobsons drie Bobs.

tinue perfitt friends each to other during their liues, and so returned to the Schoole wel satisfied, where *Dobson* sate all the day oppzessed with melancholy, casting his thoughts vp and downe, how to come cleare with his Uncle, but hee could not apprehend any occasion in the worlde as then: yet gaue hee not ouer to expect, or vrged some fit opportunitie of reuenge, and after diuerse purposes which missed him, in the end he thus resolved. At the Vicarage of *S. Giles*, his Uncle had a very faire Orchard, in which euery yeere he had growing great abundance of goodly and pleasant fruites, for which he was so careful, that alwayes nigh vnto the time of their ripening, he hired sometimes one, sometimes two fellows to watch his Orchard in the night season, and to defend his fruits from stealing. *Dobson* hauing a goodwill to ease his stomake vpon his Uncle, agreed with certaine of his merry acquaintances, one night in Apple-time to enter the Orchard, and from thence to conueigh such fruit as possibly they were able to beare, promising to assist them himselve, intreating them if they were molested, to beate well and soundly the Keepers thereof, and to vse his Uncle as he would deuise, if he came to their succours: him (saith hee) when you haue gagged, and bound the two Keepers so surely that they cannot moue, or doe you any incombzance, I would haue you to put into a sacke, binding first his handes and fete, and permitting onely his head to appeare lest he should be smothered, gagging him likewise lest he cry, and be redeemed of his neighbours, then in some place of the orchard where the trees be thickest, I wish to haue him trussed vp by the heeles, where let him hang till he waxe moze tender. for he is old and too tough for the spit: And for my selfe, I purpose that time to be absent from the house, because you shall not be hindzed by me, nor interrupted: but be sure that you binde

Dobsons drie Bobs.

binde not my Uncle too hard, neither yet giue any great blowes, but with as much facilitie as you can, binde as I haue instructed you, wherein, if you shall accomplish my desire, I shall thinke my selfe both bounden vnto you for helping me so be reuenged, and also : shalbe willing to repay your kindnes, when any occasion thereof is misured.

They willed him to take no further thought, than onely to deuise a meane for his owne absenting, and they would performe all the rest as he had directed, the next Wednesday night insuing. *Dobson* thanked them, and vpon Wednesday hee entreated his Uncle to licence him to go see his father and other friends in the country : For Uncle (saith hee) I haue not bene there nowe the space of these tenne yeeres, and I am very desirous to visite them, and for two dayes to be merry amongst them, vnto which his desire, his vncle condescended : and *Dobson* (seeming to him to go to his father) passed no further then into the Towne, to forward these fellows in the execution of their intended stratageme, he went therefore first vnto a Carpenters shop, and caused a horse of wood to be made, with a sword, dagger, and distaffe of the same, all the which he gotte planted in a gorgeous manner, and bringing them to his companions vppon Wednesday at night; hee goeth with them to the bitter side of the Orchard, where taking downe two pale borders, which hee befoze had loosened, they made themselves a way to enter. They, so soone as they were within, begaune to lay agood amongst the Apple trees, making a great rushing and noyse, of purpose : the keepers came to know their intents, and to bring them befoze sir *Thomas*, but the conflict was vnequall, for they were fire against two: yet being sturdy fellows, of a good stomacke, and standing vpon the iustnesse of their quarrell, encountred them

Dobsons drie Bobs.

all very lustily, untill the one of them was beaten downe to the ground, and the other being ouermatched, fledde into the Vicarage, and tolde sir *Thomas* how the case did stand. At the hearing whercof, hee arose in great haste, calling vp also his house-keeper, willing her to follow after him with the broach, and to kill the first with whom shee incountred: so, saith he, this nights worke shall be memorable in Dunholme, while there is one stone thereof standing. And fearing lest he should not be well hap-
ped with blowes, casting his gowne loosely about his shoulders, soorth hee marched, and the olde beldame his sister with a broach, and the keeper of the Orchard with a portigan. But while sir *Thomas* was making himselfe ready for the fight within, the thæues had chained the other fellow whome befoze they had beaten downe, and also had gagged him so well, that he could not cry, and were expecting close by the doores, when sir *Thomas* wold sallie soorth, they tripped his hæles at vnawares, being nêrer at hand than hee looked for, and musshed him in his gowne, untill they had made him ready for the sacke: Then taking his gowne they put it vppon his sister, and tying her handes behinde her, they set her vpon the wooden horse, as *Dobson* had prescribed, and bound her teete vnder his belly, which done, they girde her about with the painted sword and dagger, setting vpon hir head a paper hatte with a bush of peacocke feathers eualiers like, ready to chalenge every man to the combate, and in this guise they placed her vnder a pearre tree. Sir *Thomas* did they thrust into a sacke, and by his nephews aduise, who fearing that so long hanging by the hæles, as til the next morrow, might procure him some infirmity, they reared him into the same pearre tree aboue his sister, and making for him a chaire of estate of the boughes, they bound in the one hand the distaffe, and in his other, a skimmer,
and

Dobsons drie Bobs.

and spreading his armes, they fastned him by the wrists vnto the bzaunches that were next him. While some of them were thus in hand with sir *Thomas*, and his house-keeper, the other tooke the twolwarders, and bound and gagged them as is aforesaide: they fastned their handes about a apple tree, turning their hols down beneath their knees, so as their buttocks were set naked to the tree, fastning them to the truncke below. Besides the gagges, they putte into either of their mouthes, a bunch of Maie, and a pricking Thorne: and befoze them they heaped a bundle of hauine, and other drie wood in forme of a fire, and the bzoach hung full of apples as it were to be roasted. Then taking so much fruit as them liked, they departed home, leauing sir *Thomas* and his seruitours to keepe the watch.

Dobson very timely in the morning repaired to the vicarage, and knowing his vncles necessitie, hee passed thozow the house into the orchard, to take a view of his deuises: and when he came vnto the peare tree wherein his vncle was inthronized, he called vppe to him, in sorrowfull manner wringing his handes, and as it would be, wrested forth some small number of teares. But his vncle late as a man who had perisht the vse of his tong, for speake he could not, in regarde of his gagge, neyther could he moue, or make any signe: they had so streightened all his ioynts. His Aunt also buckled vpon her prancing courser in martiall manner, like *Bellona* goddess of battell, late daring *Mars* and all his chivalrie: and the two keepers in their disguises, like *Tantalus*, stood gaping, as though they would haue catcht the apples off from the bzoach, but could not reach them. *Dobson* to perswade his vncle that he was ignozant of this practise, ranne howling vp and downe the orchard, as it were, affrighted with this lamentable sight, and from thence in-

Dobson's drie Bobs.

to the ströets, calling the neighbours all about to come to his assistance. The people vpon his outcry flocked in heapes into the orchard, to see what the matter was, much lamenting sir *Thomas* his euill chaunce, the rather, for that it was done so priuately, as that they had no intelligence, either to haue prevented, or to haue redressed his wrongs. But it was no time then to debate the matter, his present case required more their helping handes, to vnbunde him, than their aduise how an other time to prevent the like misfortune: So some bringing a ladder, scaled vp the tree where he laye, and vnbinding his armes, they brought him downe so tenderly as they could in blankets, fearing, because he could not speake, that with extremitie of colde, hee was fallen into some sowning palsey: and being in some hope, that by warmnesse hee might be brought to his senses againe, they carried him into the house, and placed him in his bed, mouth of the which he stirred not for the space of three daies, neither all that time could he speake one word, either receiue any meate, but onely such liquide sirropes as his keeper pouzed into him with spones: The Physicians were in some doubt of his recovery of health, for which *Dobson* was vnfainedly sorrowfull, and repented that euer hee deuised such a stratageme. His Aunt was sicke for a tweluemoneth after: But the two yong fellows whose spirites were more quicke and liuely, after they had bin set befoze the fire, and lapped well in warme clothes, beganne to recover themselves. And as they perceiued their tongues able to moue, they vnsolded all the case as it came to passe. The neighbours very penſiue for their Curates mischaunce, diligently attended about him, till hee was able to doe for himselfe. And *Dobson* sent for his mother, to take charge of the house, during the time of his infirmity. But sir *Thomas*, whether that he merrily conceiued,

Dobsons drie Bobs.

relied, or otherwise was certainly informed, that *Dobson* was the plotter of this deuise in all after times, tooke such exceptions against him, as that no action of his was gratefull or acceptable in his sight, wherewith *Dobson* more flaming than before, as opportunitie sorted to his designements, hee repayed all his vncles discountenances with measurable disgraces; yet keeping a more moderate course, and giuing respect that hee did no more hazard his vncles life and welfare.

How *Dobson* caused his vncles horse to be impownded,
because he denied to let him goe with him into the
Countrey.

Chap. 7.



When sir *Thomas* was perfectly recovered of his ageu, hee was inuited by diuerse of his friends into the countrey, to passe a while some parte of the summer, perswading him that the fresh aire was both comfortable and wholesome after his so long sicknesse: and it was about the Whitson tide, when the country people hauing affections to be merry, *Dobson* requested his vnckle to graunt him leaue to accompany him, and to steede him in place of a seruingman: but sir *Thomas* thinking it a thing inconuenient, to committe the whole care of his house to his sister alone, who was an olde decrepite creature, not able to moue herselfe without a staffe, much lesse vnfitte to make resistance, if any knowing their absence should breake into the house, and offer to spoyle him of his stuffe and treasure. Again, he supposed *Dobson* made such request

Dobson's drie Bobs.

quest, onely to neglect and commit some knauery there, whereby to make himselfe as famous in the countrey, as he was memoizable in the citty. And therefore these particulars considered, he denied to let him haue his desire. *Dobson* said nothing, but shewed himselfe well appeased, yet he intended to abidge his vncke as much of his pleasure as he had done him of his. And at the very time his vncke was to set forward with his progresse, one of those good fellowes, who had fauoured him in the breaking of the *Dzchard*, was sent for into *Porthumberland* to his mother, who lay at the poynnt of death, and desired to speake with him before she passed this life. And hee both loath to take so great a iourney on foote, and not hauing a horse of his owne, could not tell how (so presently) to speede himselfe of one, as these his importunities and haste required; he acquainted *Dobson* with his want, and intreated him amongst his friends, for that time, to further him, and he would pleasure him as much, if so his errand came in his way. *Dobson* told him, that in the towne (vpon so short warning) he could not procure him any, vnlesse, quoth he, I might make bolde with my vnckles gelding, which if thou couldst returne before to morrow morning, I could then supply thy necessity, and otherwise I should disappoint himselfe, for he is to ride into the countrey, to take the ayze after his long sicknes, and to feast it amongst his friendes. A good *Dobson*, said his acquaintance, hazard a litle to pleasure me, and in any thing thou shalt commaund me, though the execution therof should stand with the expence of my blood and life, yet will I not refuse to aduenture for thy life, fame, and reputation: for if my mother should be departed before my comming, I shall be vtterly vndone, and great is the losse that may redound to me thereby. To morrow at night, at the vtmost, I will send him backe, and if so long,

Dobson's drie Bobs.

long he will not deferre his iourney : He is not of such slender acquaintance, neither so ill beloued, but that he may haue choice amongst his parishioners and neighbours.

Dobson of all other things detesting ingratitude, and not to seeme vnmindefull of pleasures receiued, or carelesse in requitall of good offices, willed him to prouide himselfe of furniture requisite, and he promised to afforde him a horse forthwith, conditionally. that whensoever thou bringest him backe, thou shalt leaue him somewhere in the pould within three miles of the City, charging the Binder to proclaime the next market day, that so my buckle may come to heare of him againe : and willed him also to take, not onely an ordinary fee, but also for his pasture for so many dayes as thou hast him in trauele, and so if thou wilt stay a weeke, I shall licence thee. His friend much, and heartily thanked him, protesting neuer to faile in whatsoeuer he could, by any of his endeauours to do him benefit, and receiuing the gelding at the place appointed betwixt them, held on his iourney with a glad some chære for this fauour of his friend, and left *Sir Thomas*, eyther to borrow vpon his neighbours, or to stay at home, or like a stowt fellow to steppe vpon his stumps. The same night after supper was ended, *Sir Thomas* willed *Dobson* to warne his tenaunt that looked to his saide gelding, and such other beasts as he had grazing a mile distant from the towne, to take him into the stables that night, to the end he might haue him in readinesse to be gone betimes the next morning, for he purposed to dine tenne miles from the City. *Dobson* went presently and deliuered his message, and sent the fellowe to the fieldes, who sought him all that night, and the next day, in every pasture, field, and towne within five miles circuite, but could heare nothing of the horse. *Sir*

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Thomas wéening him as ready now as at other times, got him to bedde that night somewhat soone, to the end hee might be stirring moze earely the next morrow: in which so soone as the day appeared, he arose and made himselfe fitte for his iourney, he put on his holiday apparrell, his bootes and spurres, called for his breakefast, and neuer asked for his horse, vntill he had ordered all things in the house, desiring his sister friendly to entertaine all such his neighbours and acquaintaunces as should come to visite her during his tarriance in the Country: charging *Dobson* to be dilligent in the accomplishment of all her commaundements, and to abstaine from all kinde of disorders till his returne, to giue god respect to all thinges about the house, and at his chamber in the Fraternity: and so kissing his sister for a farewell (after the maner of the Countrey) he willed *Dobson* to bring him his horse to the doores. *Dobson* returning from the stables, came and tolde his vncle, that his man had not brought him as yet from the fieldes, as hee supposed, for vpon hookes were hanging his bridle and saddle, but he could see no horse. *Sir Thomas* chafed at the fellow his tenaunt, and sent *Dobson* to his house to know the cause why he was not yet come. The wife tolde him that she had not seene him since his being there, when hee without further delay went to fetch him: and because hee came not home to his bed, I iudged my Maister had sent him abroade for the dispatch of some other of his businesses, so that if hee be not with you, for my life I cannot certifie what is becom of him. *Dobson* carried backe her answer; which answer *Sir Thomas* hearing, hee knew not what to imagine, but strait hee imagined his horse to be stolne, and so affirmed. O God forbid, said *Dobson*, my hope is, that he is onely strayed forth into some of our neighbours grounds, or else is some where in the pould. If so, saide his vncle, then
the

Dobsons drie Bobs.

the fellow would haue got some notice of him befoze this time: and so perhappes, good vncle, he will be heere with him shortly. In which hope sir *Thomas* kept on his boots all that day till night, when home came the fellow without the horse, neyther could tell any newes of him. Sir *Thomas* feared he had bene stolne, and soz the very sorrow thereof, he stayed his iourney soz that time, and sent his man to euery coast of the Countrey, to inquire after him: but all his labour was in vaine, untill the returne of the party, to whome *Dobson* had lent him, who obseruing *Dobsons* prescript, left him in the pound, at *Chester* in the stræte, charging the *Pindar* to take his accustomed fees, and soz a weekes pasture more, when hee should be sent soz by the owner. The *Pindar* very glad of so good a pledge, caused proclamation to be made in *Dunholme* the next morrow after that hee was left with him. Some one of his neighbors that was present thereat, gaue sir *Thomas* to vnderstand thereof, who by the description knew him to be his. He sent soz him immediately, and gaue the *Pindar* his whole demaund with all his heart, reioycing to haue got his gelding againe; which he verily supposed had bin stolne.

How *Dobson* brewed Ale for his vncle.

Chap. 8.



Dobson yet hardly brooking his vncles discourtesie, and perceiuing him to be dayly, estranged, hauing got the reines into his hands, did grow carelesse more liberally runne at large, and neuer toke vpp with himselfe, untill hee had thrust his

Dobsons drie Bobs.

necke into the halter, when if his vncke had not stood his very good friend, he had bid his kinsfolkes al adew with his heeles, and had daunced his last measures vpon the gallows: but fearing no such matter as then, neither imagining to be so much needfull of his kindnesse, he spared not to play the scoule with him, who afterward p2oued his best friend: neither did he thinke himselfe sufficiently satisfied with the abuse he had already offered, but euer as he could catch an accurrence to doe him further grieffe, he put to execution the same forthwith. His vncke to recompence his neighbours carefull respect of him in his sicknesse, inuited them to a Friday nights drinking, letting them to vnderstand, that whereas they were sorry for his late misfortune, as wel appeared by their care and paines taken about him during the time of his infirmity, which their gratitude and kindnesse commixt with compassion, though he were not of power in equall measure able to satisfie, & according to their well deseruings, yet his willingnesse should neuer be wanting, to afford so much as his estate and abilitie permitted: and therefore praying them to pardon his insufficiencie, and to accept of his good will, he wished he might be so bold as to intreat them to take a cup of Ale with him, and an apple, the Friday at night following, which he promised should be of the best to be had in *Dunholme*. They excusing their negligence, told him they were ashamed that they did no better stand him, when his necessitie so required, but they could do no moze but sorrow for their defect: and for such troublesome guests as they should be, they told him that he needed not to feare to want. He greatly contented with the gratefull acceptance of his simple offer, bespoke his Hostesse to send to his chamber halfe a dozen gallons of her best Ale, which she did according to his appointment. He further commaunded his house-keeper

per

Dobsons drie Bobs.

per to bestow it in some safe place, where none might haue access to trouble it, untill it were clære and fined: which she did (as she imagined) yet *Dobson* had a shift to deceiue her, as well as to set his vncles geldings in the sold. So, vpon the Thursday at afternone before his vncles guests were to come, he and his fellow schollers hauing libertie to dispend the day at their choyce, & were dismissed of al schoule exercises, he willing to make them a banquet, carried such as he specially fauoured with him to the Vicarage, where preuenting his vncles guests, he made the most part of them drunke as Kats. When he had placed them all so nere to the house as he thought conuenient, he came to his Aunt, and told her that *Sir Thomas* was come to the Church, to see if the Organs were in tune, for the next Sunday they were to be vsed: and because he would not altogether rely on his owne iudgement therein, he had brought with him halfe a dozen of his familiars, to help to refozme them, if need so required, to whom, in regard of their paines, he had promised a cup of his Ale; and therefore willed her to tappe it, and to send him a Jacke thereof to the Church. She beleeuing this his tale to be true, gaue to him the key of the house where it was kept, desiring him to broach it, in respect her sight was so imperfect, that she could not well discerne what she did. *Dobson* glad of his commission, extended this authority, plaid the bountifull Butler, and did draw forth into tankards (which he of purpose had prouided) more then halfe his vncles Ale: yet because he was loath that his vncle should want of his measure, he filled vp the barrell with water which he found there standing in pailles: and surrendring againe the key to the custody of his Aunt, away he went (as she wened) to the Church to his Uncle, but in very deed he returned to his companions, where he had left them shooting in the

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meadowes, who laughing at *Dobsons* deceiuing of his Aunt, drinke healthes soliberally one to another, as not one of them was able to goe home, but as *Dobson* conducted them. The next night ensuing the guests came according to their promise, whom *Sir Thomas* welcomed with many faire and curteous speeches, much thanking them, that they would vouchsafe to assemble to his poore lodging, and accept of such a poore pittance as he had provided, which he said was a roasted apple and a cup of Ale, which I dare pawne you my word is the best in *Dunholme*: and while the apples were at the fire, he willed his house-keeper to fill a glasse thereof, that they might taste it, and suspend their verdicts how they liked it: his very conceit serued to make it good enough in his iudgement, so that when he tasted, he could not perceiue the commixture: but commending it for singular good, gaue it to him who sat next, willing him to drinke well thereof, for he was very welcome to it: but he espying it pale in the glasse, feared that it was not such as *Sir Thomas* commended it to be, yet notwithstanding he kicked the cup, and reached to another, and so it went through them all, and yet the better halfe remained vndrunke.

Sir Thomas maruelling to see them leaue so little in the glasse, asked them how they liked the same, for it seemeth by your drinking that it is not such as you looked for: indeed (said they) it might be made good againe, with brewiug ouer againe, but we haue drunke much better in our liues than it is now, and seldome worse. Whereupon *Sir Thomas* halfe ashamed so rashly to haue praised it, and in great chaife against his hostesse, took the glasse and tasted it againe, and drinking the remainder hee swore, that it was more than halfe water, and asked his house-keeper how it came to passe, what (saith shee) doe you mislike it now, and could finde no fault with it yesterday

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Yesterday? was it good then, and naughty to night? Yesterday (said he) I neuer tasted it befoze this present, and how could I then giue iudgement of the good or bad qualitie thereof? No, (said his sister) did not you send our nephew to me yesterday, with commandement to broach it, and to send you a tankard of the same to the Church? neuer I (quoth sir Thomas) in all my life: why then (said she) he hath deceiued me, for such message hee brought, and I trusted him and let him to take what he would; for he assured me, that it was for your selfe, and your friends with you. Dobson hearing this sedule of his Aunt, stole forth into a place where the Hens sit vpon a fleake, whither he ascended, pulling vp the ladder after him, that no man could come to him but by his permission: his Uncle vpon this relation of his sister, called and sought for Dobson in euery corner of the house, but hee would make no answer; vntill at the last sir Thomas hearing a rushing vpon the fleake, espied his cock sitting amongst his hens: and after he had thundred forth some threatening speeches, he commanded him to discend, not so (good Uncle, saith he) vnlesse you will first sweare that you will pardon me, I telling you the truth of the matter, and otherwise, rather than I will sustaine your rigorous punishment, I will throw my selfe head-long from hence, and will take it vpon my death, that the very feare of your severity hath brged me so to doe, answer you the lawe as you can. The neighbors intreated sir Thomas to remit to him that fault, and to be pacified, offering all to passe their words, that he should neuer moze in such sort offend him: he afraid that the violent fellow would do himselfe some iniurie, at their important suites pardoned him, vpon condition that he would betray the truth, which hee did, and came downe from the fleake, and to make his Uncle, some kind of satisfaction, he went into the towne
and

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and fetcht some better Ale, wherewithall hee intended to entertaine his honest friendes, and louing neighbours all.

How *Dobson* furnished himselfe of a sute of apparrell:
and how he vsed his Schoole-fellow.

Chap. 9.



In *Thomas*, notwithstanding that he pardoned his nephew at the instance of his neighbours, and accepted of his submission for the time, yet seeing him to grow so absolute in knauery, he purposed to hold his nose to the grindstone, and to keepe him at hard meat, he spared his purse, and made him go thinly apparelled, and scarcely sometimes did he allow whole cloathes, but forced him to weare his old rags for want of newe, till they hung in totters about his taile. But *Dobson* to remedie this necessity, enrolled his vncles name in the Drapers booke, for a sute and a cloake, which his vncle was constrained to discharge for his credite sake. But to pzeuent him of that meane, he went thorow the Citty amongst all the Clothiers and Millioners, warning them no further to credite him, vnlesse hee bought it with ready money, the which he shall alwayes haue, if he be sent from me: and whosoever shall let him haue any vpon credite, must be glad to stand to his owne perill, for he not be answerable for any halfe-penny thereof from hence forward.

The

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The marchants thereupon would no moze register *Dobsons* name, not so much as for a paire of garters, which putte him (poore man) into great discontent, and what shift to make for garments, when these were gone, hee could not deuise: to aske for any of his vncke hee dared not, and hee was debarred of his former proiect, by the which he supposed to haue euer, as he had needed, to supply that indigence. He must then take some other course, and for once hee fell to stealing, taking away a song made by one of his fellowes, which for the requisite musicks therein shewed, was highly commended of the whole Quere. This he purloyning carried into the Country to his vncke *Pharoes* house, who had diuers sonnes and daughters that could sing, of whose knowledge in that Arte his vncke was not a little proud. *Dobson* therefore to applaud his vncles humour, presented him this Song, telling him how himselfe had made the same: and he, because it was well liked of, and allowed for good consort, that hee thought it no where better bestowed than vpon my cosins your daughters. Maister *Pharoe* thanked him, and promised to recompence his good will: But first hee called his daughters to sing it ouer, who with their swete and tuneable voyces much moued their fathers affection; themselues also were so much in loue with the descant, that they requested onely to haue it set in their booke: but *Dobson* moze liberall then they looked to haue found him, freely bestowed it among them, with this applause; Good cosins, if this be pleasing vnto you, I will affoord you hereafter moze plenty of better stuffe, this is but the simple inuention of my owne rude bzaine, and not woorthy of halfe this commendation: but such as it is, yours it is with all my heart, and I thinke my selfe in your debt for your kinde acceptance thereof. His cosins thanked him againe, and beseeched their father to

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be bounteous towards him. He to satisfie *Dobsons* expectation, and to gratifie his daughters request, clothed his kinsman *Dobson* in a new suite, whereof hee being heartily glad, didde professe to his vnckle and cousins to be alwayes at their commaund and seruice, and so returned to Dunholme in that case, where hee kept as much swagging as before.

His vnckle sir *Thomas* marvelled whence he had such a gallant sute, and who had bene so liberall toward him, desired to be informed. It is no matter, saide *Dobson*, (good vnckle) since that now I haue them, you may coniecture that I haue compassed them by my wittes, and if you thinke I haue not got them by begging, imagine they are stolne. Sir *Thomas* thinking it fitte no further to vrge him, suffered the matter to passe without anie further question. At the same instant, a yong Gentleman, a fellow scholler of his, had a new suite of the same colour and cloth, and hee was of equall make and stature with *Dobson*, and their backs being towardes the beholders, it was a difficulty to discerne the one from the other, wherewith *Dobson* was not well content to be challenged so often for his fellow. To giue the people some speciall note therefore how to distinguish them, he vsed this meane: In the schoole was a great flintie stone, vpon which in the winter time this yong Gentleman was accustomed to sit before the fire: this stone one morning while the other was exercised in writing, and gaue no respect vnto what was praised, *Dobson* caused to be made extreame hote, and pretending to haue some matter of importance to impart to the Gentleman, he called him to the fire, and made the stone ready for him to sit vpon, who neither fearing nor thinking of any kind of harme, satte himselfe downe as he was wont, to discourse with *Dobson*, who propounded a number of extravagant

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ragant questions wherewith to occupy his minde, and wherby to expel from his memorie, all occasions or motives of rising from his seate, till anone the boy felt an extraordinary heate in his buttocks, yet he sate still, while strait he perceived that they were ready to bzoyle, at the which he started vpppe halfe astonished, and putting his hand behinde him, to feele if his breeches were not fired: and hee perceived the greatest parte of them to be burned forth, and a great open to passe thow cloth, linings, and shert, euen to his naked skinne. The Boy quaked and trembled, being soze amazzd with the chance, as not conceiuing how it came to passe. *Dobson* and his complices sported themselves at the boyes mis-hap, and the most of *Dobsons* familiars in the Towne, to whome notice was giuen thereof, made themselves merry with the boy as hee passed befoze them in the strætes, from the Schoole to his Innes, and he was glad to get a patch set vppon the broken place, by which, euer after, hee was knowne from *Dobson*.

¶ How *Dobson* tooke vpon him a Gentlemans estate: and how he caused the Ale-wife of *Wutan* to come before the Commissarie.

Chap. 10



I hath bin a custome of olde, and is yet to this day in the Scholes of Dunholme, for thzee Schollers euery Satterday to be marshaled forth to the woods in the coun-trey, to prouide birchen roddes for the correction of the disordered and negligent:

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and obseruing a certaine order therein, it passed quite
thorow the whole number of schollers euery halfe yeare.
Once *Dobson* in the winter season, when the weather in
those parts is commonly stormy, and the ayre piercing,
had alwayes a shift to thrust another forward, and to
keepe himselfe at home: mary in summer, when it seer-
med a healthfull recreation, it pleased him to keepe his
owne turne and others too, in lieu of the paines they had
taken for him in the colder time of the yeare. Concer-
ning then a desire to notifie his fame among the coun-
treymen and swaines of the villages, one time when he
was appointed in the hinder end of the month of Maie,
to accompany *Rakebaine* and *Talifere* to the birch woods,
he decreed with them to commit some famous ieast, for
which to make himselfe memorizable. In *Witton* *libert*,
for thither they were to go for such rubbish as they wan-
ted, and conferring with them of the matter vpon the
Friday at night before, they concluded, that he should
take vpon him the state of a Gentleman, and that they
two should attend him as seruitors, and respectfully re-
uerence him as their Maister: determining further, that
they would banquet with some good wife for a messe of
creame before they returned; & so examining their pur-
ses, their whole stock amounted but to onely thre pence,
which they thought was a great deale too little, and far
insufficient to discharge their shot, they hauing an inten-
tion to spend royally. But *Dobson* to animate them for-
ward, willed them to referre the matter to himselfe, and
they should see that he would take such course, as that he
would make it serue wel enough with the helpe of his
countenance: Wherefore *Iames* (saith he) thou must as-
sway me thy best sute of apparell, thy cloke and rapper,
to attire me withall, that there may be some difference,
and that the people may moze easily conceiue my genti-
lities

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litie : and soz you, I will bozrow two lieries, and two
 swords, and see that you play the seruingmen in forme.
 When I call or speake to you, forget not to stand with
 your heads vncovered: or if I stand to pisse, you must al-
 so stand bare at my backe, after our English fashion. You
 must worshop, and god worshippe me at euery word: to
 wit, you must take occasion to informe me of somewhat
 to be done, and then you must frame your speech in this
 forme: And it please your good Worshop, your Worships
 Father willed me to put you in mind of a speedy returne,
 desiring your Worshippe to remember his businesse, &c.
 And if any aske you what I am, you shall aunswere, that
 I am sonne to Maister Chauncelloz of *Dunholme*. And
 be careful, that in no phrase of speech, gesture or cariage,
 that you shew your selues familiar, but attend me with
 all submission and reuerence. And you executing these
 instructions, shall see that I will procure vs indeleable
 respect amongst the vulgar sort, and all the towncs and
 villages nere about, shal haue cause to speake of Maister
 Chauncellozs sonne and his men. And hauing thus re-
 ceiued their lesson, away they go the Saturday morning
 toward *Wilton Ilbert, Dobson* in *Rakebaines* apparel, cloke
 and rapper, and his companions in such old lieries as
 he had bozrowed amongst the Prebends, with two il fa-
 uoured swords girt to their sides. As they passed along
 they were met by many multitudes of market folkes,
 whom that *Dobson* might stirre them to conceiue of his
 gentilitie, toke many occasions to talke with his men:
 sometimes he would stand still, other sometimes he
 would hold forth right, at other times also he would sud-
 denly turne him about, at euery which occasion they
 capped and kneeled in humble and debonaire maner: di-
 uers simple people wondered who it should be: some said
 certainly he is sonne to some great personage, and hath

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hæne brought by in ciuill places, for in all our liues wée haue not seene a man so much reuerenced by his seruāts. Others beholding the cariage of his attendants, at their meeting of him, would also rap, kneele, and bid good morow to his Worship: and this course of complements they continued from *Dunholme*, while they came to *Winton*, which by computation is foure miles. When hœe came into the towne, hœe asked where he might haue some victuals for himselfe and his men: An Alehouse was presently shewed vnto him, into which he entred, called to the good wife to make a breakfast ready for him and his men: shœe demaunded what it would please his good Worshipp to haue prepared: He answered, that he would haue some new cakes, creame, butter, and such other things as she could affoord: all which she set vpon the table befoze him incontinent. Master Chauncellozs sonne and his men fell to their victuals afresh, their stomackes were pretty good, and they quickly made rid of this prouision, and asked their Hostesse what they had to pay: two pence a man (said she) and your Worship is hartily welcome. Alas good woman, that is but fire pence in the whole: No more, and it please your Worship will I haue at this time for so slender fare (said the good wife:) Why then (said Master Dobson) turne the cloath againe, we will make her amends: so hœe called for more Ale, which she brought of a nut browne colour, as good as needed to be drunke, with great store of new cakes, creame, and custard, chœse also with apples and nuts, she placed on the table againe: of all which they toke so much as they thought good, and willed her to remoue the residue: then they desired againe to know their shot for al together: she told them, that for the whole they must pay twenty pence. What, said Master Dobson, (hauing but thre pence to defray all) was it now but fire pence,

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pence, and wilt thou make this last, being much worse, trebble the first: Nay gogs heart, I will teach thee a trick for that. Good sir (said the woman) I cannot well haue lesse, if I should be a sauer by you, and I trust you do not wish my losse. No (saith Maister Dobson) neither yet shalt thou make a tole of me and so cousin mee. But I pray tell me one thing, haue you a licence to keepe an alehouse? Yea sir that I haue, and vnder master chauncellours owne hand and seale: Why and he is my father, saide M. Dobson: but seeing thou hast no better a conscience than thus to extort men, I will haue it disallowed, and therefore I doe charge thee, as thou wilt answer the contrary, at thy perill, that vppon Friday next thou make thy apparance before my father in the Chauncery, where I will see how thou canst answer this irreligious dealing, and also haue thy licence surueyed, that if there can be any aduantage at all taken thereat, I will haue it defaced, and thy selfe punished, as thou dost deserue. The poore woman starued with feare vppon this hard sentence pronounced, fell prostrate at his fete, beseeching him to pardon her, for that shee had not bled him as his worshipfull calling required: but the fault was in her ignorance of his person and worth. She also prayed him to be fauourable vnto her, and to take compassion of her miserable estate, for shee was mother of fve small childezen, and had not wherewithall for to maintaine them, besides that poore trade, and her husbandes handylabour, and for that hott shee was content with all her very heart to remitte it, and that hee should commaund, not onely then, but at all other times, whatsoeuer was within her poore house that in any respect might doe him pleasure. Well (saith hee) I scoone to offer iniurie, to either thee, or to any of my inferiours: but, as I will not harme them, so they shall
not

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not abuse me. And as for the shot I will defray it euerie farthing: but faile not thou to come befoze my father, as I haue prescribed, when I will haue you better instructed what appertaineth to your trade, than I coniecture you doe vnderstand. And so goe fill your shotte pot, and you shall haue your money. The goodwife quaking euery bone, went to her celler for more ale, but in the meane time Maister Chauncellours sonne leauing onely three pence vpon the Table for the whols discharge, conueyed himselfe and his men forth of the house, and closely stole into the woods, where euery man loading himselfe with burch, in the euening they returned to the citty by a secret and priuate passage. The goodwife, after they were gone, was forced to content her selfe with what they had left, not knowing how to recouer the residue: and carefull shee remained all the weeke after, for her appearance to be made befoze Maister Chauncellour. She related to her husband at night what accident shee had that morning, his feare was double hers, and hee chased and chid her apace, and had wel-nie beaten her, for demanding so much, and for that shee had no better respected him: for now (saith he) hast thou, through thy couetousnesse, vndone vs all for euer: for if thy licence be taken from thee, as by likelihoode it must needes, we may all goe begge, and so daunted was hee with the newes that hee could not tell how to aduise her. But going to the Church the morrow after, he asked Maister Vicar and all his neighbours counsell, desiring them to direct him what was best to be done in this matter. They, to see their neighbour in such a difficulty, laide their heades together, and concluded, that his wife should goe and let her licence be seene, and that shee also should make reherfall of all that which had passed betwixt her and them, omitting no circumstance. And wee (saide they) will all
toyne

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toyne in petition to Maister Chauncellour, to permit her to practise her trade, which petition Maister Vicar presently framed, and they confirmed, by subscribing thereto their names, and deliuering it to their neighbour. And that they might bring into some comfort whome they saw cleane out of heart with the feares he conceined hereupon, they cheered him with many faire speeches, promising, that he should not fall, if their helps could sustaine or proppe him vpp. After dinner, the better to incourage him, they all came to drinke at his house, and to repaire the damage which she his wife had receiued by Maister Dobson. And so plentifully maister Vicar, and the good fellows of his parish took their cuppes, that not a man amongst them, but that hee receiued a wound in his head, and for Maister vicar, he was not able for that night reade his Seruice, but perceiuing himselfe hurt, he requested his hostesse to sit him of a bed, for that night, whereunto shee most willingly assented. But this rested vntill friday morning, when vp arose the Ale-wife bestimes, put on her fairest smocke, petticoate of good broad red, her gowne of grey, faced with buckram, her square thymb hatte, and before her shee hung a cleane white apzon, and putting her petition into the bore, with her licence, shee takes her way to Dunholme, there to attend her calling in, to answer before Maister Chauncellour, but there shee stayed all the fore noone, expecting when Maister Dobson would bring her to his appearance, much maruelling that no man did acknowledge her, neyther question with her as concerning her businesse. Shee had speciall care to espie Maister Chauncellours sonne in the throng, and not able to fixe her eyes vpon him, she supposed that he was not accustomed to come abroad so early, albeit she attended there before the Chauncery office doze, from halfe an houre past seauen in the morning,

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untill almost twelue, when the Court rose and went to dinner: she earnestly desired to haue a dispatch, but how to effect her desire she could not deuise, for she was unknowne to all, and they in like sort were all strangers to her, and Maister Dobson had forgotten the strict charge he imposed vpon her the satterday afore-going, neyther sought he to exhibite any Bill of Complaint against her. She seeing no person to respect her, albeit she was in a labyrinth of conceits, sometimes of retiring, otherwhile of staying til she might see the vttermost: she also thought it conuenient to take a little meate in the Towne at a kinsmans house of hers there dwelling, to whome she reuealed her whole case, and requested his counsell: He thought it fitte that she should attend alittle further, to see if she were inquired after, which if you be not cousin (saide he) I wil make meanes my selfe to Maister Chancellour that you may be dispatched and so depart home. At one of the clocke when the Court was to sit againe, he came along with her toward the Chauncery. Maister Dobson sitting in an olde freeze gowne befoze the north gate of the Cathedzall, espied his Hostesse, and remembering himselfe, that it was friday, imagined, without further discourse, the cause of her being there: and being ashamed to present himselfe into her sight, he closely conueyed him selfe from her view, yet thought hee good to ride her once againe like a countrey iade, and thereupon he went to one of the Clarkes of the Chancery, and acquainted him with the whole matter, desiring him to take some course for the ending of her businesse, and to set her packing: for during her abode in the Towne, I shal be constrained (saide he) like the fore, to keepe my hole. The Clarke promised to order the matter well enough, but he either forgetting himselfe, or troubled with so much other businesse, that he could not regarde it,

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it, suffered her to stay untill three of the clocke vncalled for. Whereat her cousin, grieved with her attendaunce, boldly stept into the Chauncery, tolde Maister Chauncellour her case, and desired his good worship, that for his accustomed clemency he would let her come to her answer, that she might know what she were to trust vnto. The Chauncellour hearing such reportes to his sonnes disgrace, in publique court, was greatly offended therewith, and caused her to be brought in, and demanded of her if she would iustifie those things, or not. Yea, quoth she, I will be deposed that all these reportes of my cousin be most true, and in witnesse thereof, here are the handes and names of our Curate, and principall men of our parish. Well quoth Maister Chauncellour, Thou naughty woman, I will haue thee made an example to all the world for slaundering my sonne with so much vtrueth: for the very day before thou reportest this acte to be done, I sent him to Yorke about important businesse of mine owne, and the Churches, and as yet he is not returned, neither, if he had bene at home shouldst thou make me to beleue that he would haue so much abused himselfe. O good Maister Chauncellour (said she) for the pittie of almighty God, reade my testimoniall, and you shall know thereby, that I haue spoke nothing but the plaine trueth, which if it appeare not to be so, then spare no punishment. He, although he rested assured of his sonnes innocencie, yet because the simplenesse of the woman perswaded him that she could not contriue it, and also seeing her so earnestly to insist vpon the verification thereof, hee conceived that some had done her iniury, and fathered the matter vpon his sonne: he therefore tooke her petition, and read it openly, which contained thus much in effect.

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Humbly beseecheth your good worship, father Chancelloz, you daily Oratozs, the Vicar and parishioners of *Witten Ilbert*, in the behalfe of this poore woman, our comnton Hostesse of the same Towne and Parish, that whereas, upon the five and twentieth day of *Maie* instant, your worships tenite and sole heire, accompanied with two men onely, repaired to the house of our saide Hostesse, and there calling for Ale, Cakes, Creame, Curds, Custard, Cheese, Apples and Nuts, had all the same things afforded in plentifull manner by our said Hostesse: whereof although but thre in number, and also pretending themselves gentlemen, they ate so much as would haue sufficed five stal-worth men, as with vs are set to plowe and waine, and when our hostesse did demaund of them (as right would she should) but a reasonable recompense, and much lesse than they had taken of hers, they quarrelled with her, and like cozoning fellows (if not your worships sonne and seruants) they thowishly departed, leauing all vndischarged except thre pence, which they shamefully left on the table behinde them, whilst she was gone to fill their shot-pot, hauing befoze threathned her to haue her licence disallowed, and vpon this day inioyned her to make her appearance befoze your worship in this Court, and there to haue her licence surueied, which we beseech you to confirme, and ratifie, for she is the best Hostesse that euer must be in *Witten Ilbert*, and better Ale is no where brewed than shee doth make; for one pot thereof taken in the morning, keepeth the heart warme all the day after: In your great charitie therefore we humbly petitioning you, as you are a worthy Chancelloz, to tender all our cases, and in regard thereof we will acquite and defray all that your sonne is to her indebted for that dayes worke; *Wits (I say)* whose names are here vnder-set.

James

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James Nichols Curate of Wistan Ilbert.

William Snathe

Geffrey Hareboile

William Lonsdaile

Matthew Sharpe

} Church-wardens.

} Constables.

Cum multis alijs quod nunc perscribere longum est.

The Chauncelloz and Court laughed a long time at the subiect of this petition, and vnderstanding the poore wiues simplicity by some pœuish bzain abused, surrendered to her againe her licence, which shee there had shewed, willing her freely to practise her trade: and for she had receiued wrong vnder the name of his sonne, hee repayed her with a french crowne, willing her also to speake well of the Chancelloz and his friends, and assuring her that it was not his sonne, but some cozoning companions who had vsed his sonnes name, to abuse her thereby, dispatched her away. For which curtessie she humbly thanked him on her knees, & hyed her home to acquaint her husband and neighbours of her good successe: for ioy whereof they were all dzunke the Sunday ensuing.

How Dobson stole a goose and Roasted her.

Chap. 11.



In the suburbs of Dunholme, the Monkes of the Abbey had a certaine house of recreation, in the which euery moneth once, in the summer time, they were assembled to pastime themselves in the orchards walks and gardens, which they had there planted.

Dobsons drie Bobs.

ted : while their orders continued undissolued: but when they were reformed and reduced to a Deane and Chapter, they leased, and let forth all such places to Gentlemen of the Countrey. This house called the Hall-yerds, they farmed to one *Monsieur du Pome*, a merchant of the city, who for his house provision had alwayes there a house of Boultry. *Dobson* promised his fellowes a feast, albeit he was not alwayes the best provided of money, so about the Michaelmasse, when goose flesh commeth into request, he made an arrand to the Hall-yerds, where such shift he made, as away he brought a goose without note or suspicion, he showed it closely vnder his gowne, and lest that either he might be pursued, or the gander should cry and so indanger him of apprehension, he refused the streets, and tooke his passage alongst the riuer side to a bridge called *Pons Laurentij*, which directly carried him into the Abbey. But in the way (as it fortun'd) he was met by the owner of the same, who for his pleasure came walking by the same passage to the Hall-yerds, to take account of his seruants labours, and to see his houses and cattell. The merchant in their meeting espieing a substance of a white colour vnder his gowne, demaunded what hee had there: Nothing said *Dobson*, but my Surplesse, which I haue bene fetching from my Laundresse, for it is almost Euen-song time. That is well done (said the merchant) and making no further question with him, they sundred, the one taking his course to his farme, and the other to the schoule, where hee left his gander untill Euen-song was ended, when he conueyed him to his old host-house at the signe of the Boze, where they got him made fit for the broach. And vpon monday morning intending to performe his promised banquet, he provided a broach, and all other things requisite, and caused a fire to be built in a sellar vnder the Schoule, he set his fellowes to

Dobsons drie Bobs.

to worke, playing the maister Cooke himselfe, he assigned euery one of those whom he had acquainted with the matter to a seuerall office. The goose as she beganne to roste moze ripely, sauored so all ouer the schole, that maister Bromeley very sensibly perceiued the same, and demanded what it should be, or from whence it came: no man durst bewray the trueth, for feare of *Dobsons* indignation. But Maister Bromeley missing him and diuers others, inquired how they had bestowed themselves. Whereunto answer was made, that they were in the lower house. He suspecting that they were about the acting of some roguery, whirred downe the staires, wanning to haue trapped them, but he found a snicke before his snout, the doores were so strongly boulted against him, that there he might not come but by licence. Using then his authoritie, he knocked lustily, and commaunded *Dobson* to open the doores, for he would come in to see what they had to doe there. Oh no, quoth *Dobson*, for Gods sake come not hère sir, for you are not able to endure the stinch of this place, it is so mighty, that it will hazard your strangling: for this last night, in the raine which fel there are come downe such a multitude of frogs and other vermine into this house, that no man is able to set foote vpon any ground for them: and therefore, lest they should be the cause of any infection in this house, if they should continue vntill Summer, we haue made a fire to burne them, whereof procedes this terrible stinch which you taste, and from which we pray you to absent your selfe. Gods blessing haue thy heart, quoth master Bromeley, I pray thee leaue not one of them alieue, and when you haue finished your worke, let me haue intelligence thereof: for vntill such time as you haue dispatcht, I will leaue the schole, and commit the perfozmaunce of this busines to thy care and prouidence, wherein *Dob-*
son

Dobsons drie Bobs.

son promised to be very vigilant and respectiue, gladde to haue so easily possessed his master with a false suggestion: and so, when the goose was roasted to their contentment, they ate her all to the bones, *Dobson* and his best esteemed friends: which being done, they sent to aduertise their Maister, that hee might returne at his pleasure, for they had cleared the coast of all these mis-shapen monsters, and had perfumed the Schoole with burning of frankensence.

How *Dobson* deuised a holiday, and indangered his fellowes a whipping.

Chap. 12



Dobson, at eightene yeares of age, had so well profited in Musike, and in the Latine tongue, that he was supposed fit for the Uniuersity, whither his vnckle had intended to send him so sone as his voice changed. But he desirous to haue his name noxious in the Schoole, and to giue his fellowes often cause to speake of him after his departure, hee set down with himself to play one famous iest moze among them. And hauing prepared their affections with this aforesaid solempne banquet, he thought them so confident of his good meaning, that they would neuer apprehend any sinister conceit of his actions. One morning therefore about Midsummer after the ordinary prayers sung in the Cathed2al, they were marching toward the schoole as at other times. *Dobson* hauing fore-thought his purpose, asked them what they intended to doe, what other should

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Shoulde we doe but goe to the Schoole: To the Schoole,
 (quoth *Dobson*) and it a holiday: that were sports for a
 Tayler: I beleue you cannot make me such a foole. And
 why answered they, we haue heard of no such festiual,
 and if it be any, tis more than we doe know. Why that
 may very well be so: but I dare warrant you, that it is
 holiday, and thereof I am most certaine, for otherwise
Batte Midforths shoppe would haue bene open, as vpon
 other working daies it is wont to be: for neuer since
 my comming to the towne haue I seene it shut, but vpon
 Sundayes and principall feasts, so that I am well per-
 swaded, that it is some speciall solemnitie this day; nei-
 ther is it to be doubted, but that it hath bene procla-
 med in the Churches, or at least in the parish of *Saint*
Nicholas, albeit we haue not heard thereof, and that
 he knoweth wel enough: for else (without all question)
 his shoppe had not bene shutte in more this day than ye-
 sterday. This *Batte Midforth* was of the Gentle Craft
 of Translatores, and robling of bootes and shoes he won
 his liuelihode: euery morning was he accustomed to o-
 pen his shoppe betimes, singing like the Nightingale,
 and working apace, if, as *Dobson* saide, it were not ho-
 liday, whereof he neuer violated or brake any one, but
 obserued them all, very deuoutly frequenting the church
 and sermons, at the least two times vpon euery such
 day.

This morning as it fortun'd, he was gone into the
 Countrey, he and his wife, to visit his wifes mother,
 who laboured of a quotidian feuer, and fearing death,
 had sent for them to be at the making of her last will and
 testament, as also to see her interred according to her e-
 state and desire. *Dobson* then finding his shop windows
 shut vp, baged it for a certaine testimonie to proue there-
 by a holyday, knowing that a more forcible instance

Dobsons drie Bobs.

could not haue bene by him aleadged, than that where
of themselves could all be testificants: and thereby he so
flattered their vnderstandings, that they could not re-
solue what to do. Gladly they would haue apprehended
the occasion of a dayes libertie, if they could haue deuised
how to haue satisfied their Maister of this, they knew
not what solemne Feast day, but because they could not
conceiue how that might be inculcate, they passed on still
toward the schoule. *Dobson* seeing them so forward, tur-
ned his backe, and bid God speed them well: for as for
me you shall goe alone, let no man trust me euer while
I liue, if I come within the schoule doores this day. They
perceiuing him to seeme offended, told him, that they
were as willing as he to accept of the time, if they could
be excused at their Masters hands. Leave the dispatch
of that matter to me (quoth *Dobson*) I will be aduocate
for vs all, if you will ioyne with me this day, and con-
uent some good fellows at the Warehouse, where I haue
appointed a breakfast, and a match of shooting, I will
discharge you of all blame at our Masters hands, and
thereof be you not afraid. Upon which condition they al-
agreed to attend him, which way soeuer it liked him to go.
Well then (said he) fet your bowes, and walke toward
the Bellowes made: if I be not there before you, fall to
shoot till my comming. In the meane time I will attend
at the Schoule doore till our Masters repaire, to whom I
will shew how it is holyday: which done, I will not be
long absent from you, when we will go to the place ap-
pointed. Euery man allowing this course, fet his artille-
rie, and marched forth of the Abbey, with whom *Dobson*
went along, euen vntill they came almost to the place
where he had assigned them to stay: then he returned to
informe Maister *Bromley* as he promised of the festiuall:
and making as much hast as possibly he could, to pzeuent
his

Dobsons drie Bobs.

his Maisters comming, he tooke his seate close at the Schoole doore, lapped in his gowne as he had been a cold. About the houre of eight of the clocke Maister Bromeley came and bid him good morrow, demaunding the cause of his sitting there alone, and why he was not in the Schoole? Sir (saith he) the doore is shut, and I cannot tel how to enter, and all the residue of my fellows be gone abroad to shoot, and would haue had me to accompanie them, affirming it to be holyday: But because I could not tell what festiuall it should be, neither haue heard that it was so published in any Church of the Towne, I dared not presume to goe with them: partly, because I feared your offence, and partly, because I could not imagine what holyday it should be, for I espy all sorts of Citizens and Artizans in their shops, as vpon working dayes: yet notwithstanding all the reasons I produced to ouerthrow such their opinion, I could not perswade them to stay till your pleasure therein were knowne. But laughing at my timors, away they went globating to the fields. Maister Bromeley first examining the day and time of the yeare, lest haply it might be some Apostles or other Saints day: that either by the prescript of the Church, or the general custome of the Country, was to be kept holy, could not call to his remembrance that it was any such: and therefore he gaue Dobson in commission, to goe and commaund them all to repaire to the Schoole: with which his charge he departed, leauing his Maister to waite his stations before the portall. When he came to the place where they were earnestly shooting: Gentles (said he) I am come from our Maister, to intreat your helps a little. There are diuers Gentlemen of good sort yesternight come from London, who are traouelling toward Barwicke: and they haue sought forth our Maister this morning betimes, desiring to see our Schoole,

Dobsons drie Bobs.

and the number of schollers, requesting also that we may giue them a song: and haue bzought themselues diuersitie of descant, lately set forth by Maister *Bra Docto*r of our Arte. Our Maister did know it to be holyday before I told him, and therefore was much solicited how to get vs assembled together because of the same. That he might gratifie the straungers desires, and for ioy that I was so nigh at hand, he hath promised vs another day of recreation, when we shall think fit to call for the same. They taking all his sentences for Oracles, without further delay, in hope of their Maisters future fauour, and some reward of the Gentlemen, hurled homeward in heapes, bestowing their artillery to the custodie of their acquaintances in the way, striving who should come first home. But when they came within the Cathedral, and did see their master keeping his ward alone, their copies changde, and wished with all their hearts they had bene away: but *Dobson* seeing them to be so daunted, incouraged them to goe forward, implying to them, that the strangers were but gone to take a viewe of some of the ancient monuments in the Chancellour chize of *S. Cuthbert* till their comming: and to release them of all fears, himselfe stept foremost into the Schoole. When every man was seated in his place, disputing what would be the issue of their calling home, *M. Bromeley* bolting the doore so fast that none could escape forth, examined the cause, why they had neglected the schoole without his licence, and did not rather follow *Dobsons* aduise, which was, to haue acquainted him first, that it was a solemnitie of some Saint, either kept of custome, or commanded, which if by their collections they could haue made plaine, then he would not haue detained them against any ancient and approued custome of the Schoole. They by these propositions seeing how the case stood, had no better

Dobsons drie Bobs.

better excuse to cleare themselves, then to blame the blame-worthy, and so at large related, how by him they were induced thereunto, standing all to affirme it in his face, and their testimonies so strongly charging him, could not descerne any fault in them worthy of chastisement, but turned all his anger vpon this pregnant deuiler, who well merited the whip, and was commanded to prepare his breath for the strappado. But when he perceived that no reply of his against their assertion could be taken, neither any entreatie or promise of amendment procure his pardon, he skipped into an olde Jakes in the Schoole, whereinto they vled to throwe all their filthy dust and sweepings, protesting that forth of that place he would neuer come, vnlesse that his master would solemnly sweare to remit and forgive vnto him all offences past: and if that any disaster shall ouer-take me in this place (saith he) I will take it vpon my death, that the feare I conceiue of your barbarous vsage of me is the cause thereof, answere it as you can; you will finde that I haue parents will seeke for no lesse satisfaction then the lawe will allow them. *M. Bromley* doubtfull that he had been madde or lunaticke by his desperate behaviour, intreated him to come forth, swearing vpon the Bible, that he would not onely release him, but pardon all the rest: vpon which his deposition made, *Dobson* by the helpe of a rope which was cast downe vnto him, ascended forth of the pit, and was reconciled to his Ma. and schole fellowes. After which time he desisted from further practizing against them, being sent by his Uncle within a weekes space to the Uniuersitie of Cambridge.

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Of *Dobsons* intertainment at *Cambridge* : and of his disputes there kept in the publike Schooles.

Chap. 13.



Sir *Thomas* being let to vnderstand, by the Maisters of the Schooles, that his nephew was fit for the *Uniuerſitie*, acquainted *M. Deane* therewith, requesting his good help and furtherance toward his placing in some good estate, whereby hee might be the rather moued to continue and set himselfe to his studies with more facilitie, such impediments being cut off as a number, who forced to attend, in respect of their lacke of maintenance, can hardly allot themselves any time to their booke. And therefore he prayed Maister *Deane* to commend him by Letters to such his friends as his worship did know could keade him for his promoting to a schollership, when the time of Election should come, that he might haue that helpe, together with the money which he had reserued of his *Choristers* stipend for his exhibition, which there hee made accompt of to maister *Deane*, that he entirely saued and kept it according as his worſhippe had commaunded for that end and purpose. Maister *Deane*, for sir *Thomas* his sake, whome he loued more than any Canonist in the church, was willing to doe whatſoeuer hee desired, so farre forth, as his Letters and credite in those places would extend : and at the time of his setting forward, forth of his owne coffers hee gaue vnto him as towards his *viaticum*, tenne markes in liberalitie, and ſue other
to

Dobsons drie Bobs.

to bestow vpon his study: he writ also in friendly manner to the Maister and Fellowes of Christs Colledge, intreating them to entertaine him as his poore schoiler, and that when a Scholership came into their gift, which by the statutes of their house they might dispose of, hee then desired that (no misdeemeanor of him to the contrary them inhibiting) to admit him thereunto, and himselfe would take it as a fauour extended vnto him, neither would be negligent in the requitall of such a courtesie. And befoze he sealed, he read them vnto sir Thomas, who humbly thanked him for these vndercrud fauors, promising, that for such his worshipful goodnesse and respect, he and his nephew shuld remaine his daily beauesmen vntil death. And receiuing the money and letters of Maister Deane, he tooke his leaue, and the next daie hee dispatched away *Dobson*, with diuers others that intended the same course, waging a carrier to conduct and guide them thither, where hee found as good welcome as could be wished for, in regarde of maister Deanes Letters, the effect of which euery man desired to accomplish, and the Maister himselfe assigned him a Tutoz, and carefully supplied all his wants, assuming him into a Schollers place, by the assent of all the fellows within three weekes of his comming thither, although that the time of Election was not vntill Michaelmasse after, a full halfe yere from the time of his installing. Hee carried himselfe very respectiuely til hee had perfectly learned all the customes and fashions of the Vniuersitie, and so diligently settled himselfe to his booke, as by the estimate of all hee was accompted the best Student in the House, and so exact he became in the interpreters of the Logicke and Philosophy, that there was not one of his classe able to equall him in dispute, or canuasse an Argument with such dexteritie. In this course did he keepe himselfe
three

Dobson's drie Bobs.

three yeares, untill he was called to the publike schooles, to hold his disputes in open audience of the Uniuerſitie, when hee ruſhed againe into his olde humours. And the firſt that opposed himſelfe to Dobſon in the Schooles was a Welchman: the firſt of whole questions was:

An aer ſit ſubſtantia corporea:

Dobſon answered:

If *Wallus* may be *Gallus*, aer ſit ſubſtantia corporea.

The Welchman cauelled againe, untill by the Moderator they were inioyned to goe to the question, and to diſpute it *ſyllogiſticè*. The opponent vrging an argument very captiouſly, was taken at the rebound, and beaten with his owne Racket. Dobſon eſcrying the Cleuch, ſhewed him the fallitie of the Sophiſme, and made him cleere with a diſtinction: and ſo, that ſtaffe being broken, he took a ſtronger by the end (as he imagined) but heere, in Dobſon ſo abated him, that the Welchman deſcended the Pulpit, and would faine haue pulled him by the eares, if by the audience hee had not bene interrupted, who perſwaded him the contrary, wherein (no doubt) they were greatly his hinderance, for if his charitie had bene to haue lent, I coniecture hee ſhould haue had his owne repaied with ſlurio. Dobſon prepared to haue reſtored him the curteſie of the towne, and bearing a gentlemanly minde, hee reſolved to haue beſtowed two for one, ſcorning to be in his debt. And of mere good wil, to prouoke the Welchmans appetite, he had brought with him, in a little linnen bagge, a penyworth of cheeſe, and a ſlice of bread, which at the propounding of the ſecond Argument, taking the bagge forth of his pocket, hee ſpreed it vpon the pulpit, and ſet thercon the bread and cheeſe, and ſaide, becauſe I thought by your complexion, that there was ſome diet which troubled your ſtomacke for want of temperd digeſtion, I haue prouided for you;

Porri-

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Porrige igitur & manduca, gratias agens; reach to theresoze, and eate, giuing thanks. It were pittie your mother should lose a sonne by a surffet. Charitie then hath moued me to pzecribe you the best phisicke I know of: and sure it is most co:respondent to a man of your constitution. *Ajax* perceiuing it a vanity to deale with *Vlysses*, offered him the Gauntlet, and forsaking his pieltw, with folded fist he made toward *Dobson* with a buffet, who met at the halfe sword: but they had scarcely changed a couple of blowes, but they were diuided, and commanded, either to pzoceede *in forma*, or to giue place to some better pzepared, *Dobson* retired to his settle, expecting another Argument. But the Welch man was without; his bzaines were troubled with this object, that for his life hee could not frame any further dispute, and so descending with disgrace for that time he departed the Schooles, but *Dobson* continued sozth his time, answering all opponents whatsoeuer, and so sufficiently, and with such learning, that his fame thereupon grew to be great in the generall opinion of the *Uniuerstie*, and the Welch man generally for euer after auoyded to take the pulpit against him.

Troilus & Cressida
2. 3. 212
and 2. 3. 104

Of Dobsons second dispute against the Kentishmen:
of his abuse of them: and of his sending to Bo-
cardo.

Chap. 14.



At the terme following, he was assigned to be defendant in questions of philosophy against certaine Kentishmen, with whom he conceiued to haue a moze doubtful conflict, knowing the most parte of them to be serious students, captious, pzeignant, courageous,

A

Dobsons arie Bobs.

ragious, and indowed with singular quicke apprehensions, and so many in number that he feared to be suppressed with multitudes, yet notwithstanding he deuised how to close their mouthes with a couer of plate; and albeit they might hap to insult ouer him, by their speculative knowledge, yet in practicall sciences he was confident to haue the superiortie. And against the day of his conference with them he thus prouided, he went to a painter in the citie, and procured him to draw at large and in liuely colours, a kennell of foxes, marching in array of battaile and loaden with the spoiles of their enemies, in the foreward was *Reynold* with a *Cavaleros* cap of tawny hue, circled with a band of gold and pearle, to which was fastned a bunch of blacke and red fethers, importing death, and ouer spreading his crowne, like a canopy, in his mouth he carried by the necke two fighting souldiers, the one a white gader whose body he had hung vpon his right shoulder behinde, & vpon the left he bare the corpe of a very faire red cocke, with some blacke & white freckles vpon the bzeast, & at the ioynture of his taile to the ridge-bone, they had placed (like a *Portmantua*) the carkasses of halfe a dozen yonger poultry: all which by maine force he had taken in the fight, & put to the sword: with him was ranked on the left hand, *Dame Ermeline* his wife, clothed in a gowne of gray undressed satin: her hat was white, and the band of siluered tinsel, with a bunch of blew and yellow feathers, which ouer-shadowed her browes forwarde, and defended her face from the scorching heate of the sunne, shee reputing her selfe in prouesse nothing inferior to sir *Reynold*, and that the worlde might beare witnesse that her valour was such: he had spoiles also to testifie the same, a gray gale, and a speckled hen, with fire Ester chickens, whome by dint of sword, she had subdued and slaughtred. After them

Dobsons drie Bobs.

them followed in good order a litter of yong Cubbes e-
uery one whereof gaue testimony by their aboundance
of prey, that a great ouerthrow had ben giuen to their
enemies, and that the victoꝝ was wholly theirs, some
carried the spoiles of the conies, other of Duckes, and
some Widgeons, onely the hinde most was plagued skip-
ping at a bunch of grapes, but could not catch them: their
tailes were painted of a large and ample file, brushing
the ground where they seemed to pace; and vpon the flo-
rish of each thereof which bunched thicke, toward the
end was artificially deuised inscriptions, containing
their names, offices, and the exploits by them atchiued,
and the armes of *Kent* in white and blew streamers, in
a field of Sable.

When all these things were thus done (as he directed)
he discharged the Painter for his worke-manship, and
conueied the Pageant to his chamber, till the day of his
answere of the *Kentish* opponent: when the time prefix-
ed came, they repaired to the scholes, a little before the
houre appointed, & caused a scræne to be set vpright in
beiw of his aduersarie, he fastened thereupon in a table
of wood the foꝛsaid pageant, drawing a veile before it,
to keepe it foꝛth of sight, untill he thought fitte to disco-
uer it, certaine Poemes he annexed as exemplifications
of the Pageant: which because I will not be offensive to
the *Kentish*-men, I passe ouer to a double post. When
the clocke had striken, and they flocked to the Schooles
from euery Colledge of the *Uniuersity*, to heare the que-
stions in controuersie decided betwixt the *Poztherne* &
Kentishmen, *Dobson* was elected Prime of the *Poz-*
therne companies, who came as defendants: and as he
seemed a noble harted Combatant, he entred the listes
courageously, animating his fellowes to second him in
semblable foꝛtitudes and magnanimity, and withou-

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Daunted spirites, promising so to blunt all their weapons that not one should haue power to pierce him. And because it concerned the credit of himselfe and all his countreymen, he kept his actes with asmuch good order and formality as hee coulde possibly make shewe of: and such excelle of learning he shewed in the whole placing thereof, as all admired his singular science & knowledge: he put downe & droue two of the to a non plus, the third ascended the piew, whom also he quickly shifted frō the Saddle: and because he would haue no commendations perished, by any of his fellows which himselfe had purchased, he vnmasked the sciēce, and layd to there view the Kentish description, at which sight all the audience swelled with laughing. But the kentishmen not brooking this abuse, without any further prosecuting of their questions, made an vproze in the Schooles, and hauing no other weapons but their fists, they went to good sad buffets the Northerne & Kentishmen, neither could all the residue set them asunder, untill the porters were sent for by whome they were admonished to desist, and for that time expelled the Schooles, *Dobson* and some others of the principals of both parties were sent to *Worcardo*, where they remained untill course was taken for their good behauiour in the Schooles in all futurity of times.

How

Dobsons drie Bobs.

How *Dobson* kept his third dispute in publike Schooles
against one *Malgrado*, a fellow student of Christs Col-
ledge, and of his expelling the Vniuersitie,

Chap. 15



The Maister of Christs Colledge be-
came *Dobsons* securitie, vpon promise
to forbear these pꝛouocations of
bꝛawles, which if he did not, he thꝛea-
tened to stay his Bachelors grace, &
to expell him the Colledge, depꝛiuing
him of all meanes of further pꝛogace
and maintenance, which inhibition he nothing respected.
The very next time he was inꝛoynd to keepe his thirde
act in publike, in which he was to deale with one of his
owne Colledge, with whom alas he knew a fault, and
therefoꝛe moꝛe boldly aduentured to play the wanton,
contrary to the Maisters admonishment. This *Mal-
grado* (foꝛ so was the other disputant surnamed) loued a
Laundꝛesse daughter of the Colledge, whom he many
times harboured in his chamber, contrary to the statutes
of their house: and at such times when she came either to
set oꝛ bꝛing his clothes to oꝛ from washing, he would pꝛi-
uily conuey her into his studie, as opportunitie best fitted
his purpose, and there many times she accompanied him
foꝛ the space of foure oꝛ fīue dayes, and sometimes moꝛe,
being lettred of sit dispatching her away by some of his
fellowes, whom vpon some extraoꝛdinarie kindnesse no-
ted betwixt them, pꝛuily watched their familiar vſage
of one another, to whom he gaue diligent respect that
they might not take him napping. *Dobson* suggesting all
occasions

Dobson's drie Bobs.

occasions he could aduise vpon, to bolt forth the truth, at last caught the Cat in the House-fall. *Malgrado* living in Pensioners common, when it pleased his guest to diet with him, was accustomed to use either of the Cookes, or amongst the Schollers a whole messe of meat, which his large prouision first bzed obseruation, and after betraied his cause; so *Dobson* and his associats by this meanes discovered the Cat in a casket: which came thus to passe. One Sunday at the afternone, when the most part of Students were gone abroad, some to heare Sermons, other to take the ayre in the fields, as euery mans disposition allotted him, *Malgrado* had appointed his friend to resort to his chamber, into the which he safely conducted her in respect of their absence, purposing that while they continued at the Sermons, he would chat with her a little, and so dismisse her befoze their returne: But such content he tooke in her company, that he forgot himselfe, and was forced to stay her all the night: so at euening time they al came home to the Colledge, because no man durst absent himselfe from prayer, and so *Malgrado* was constrained to go thither also, suspecting that if he abstained, it might occasionate his chamber to be searched, and then it was not possible so his friend to avoid their sight, he hauing no conueyance wherein to conceale her, but onely a basket which he hung aloft in his chamber, binding it with two strong ropes to a crosse beame, wherein vsually he thrust her, if he feared the presence of any of his fellowes, hauing so deuised, that the end of the rope passing through the wall of his studie, he might wind vp and downe the basket at his pleasure. He therefore compello to keep her til he might gaine a conuenient time to set her packing, was bzed that night to use double commons, and from the Cookes he carried a shoulder of mutton, not without the obseruation of *Dobson* and diuers

Dobsons drie Bobs.

ners of his fellowes, who said nothing wherby he might perceiue their suspicions, yet assured themselves that *mi-
stresse Debora* was a bidden guest. And when they conceiued him and his familiar to be in the midst of their supper, by the staires they rushed with a Porters staffe to haue carried them both to the Tole bothe, but he pre-
uented their sudden entrance, by bolting the doore against them, which he kept so untill he had bestowed her in-
to the basket, and drawne it vp as high as the beame wherunto it was fastened: which done he set open the doores and let them enter, and to search his chamber in euerie corner, but they could find nothing, till being ready to depart, saith *Dobson*, fellow *Malgrado*, I supposed that you used a shoulder of mutton to supper, what haue you done with the remainder, surely my commons were so slender, that I intended at my coming hither to haue mended my fare with you, if this unruly rabble had not interrupted me: and therefore I pray thee if thou hast any left, let vs haue it, and we will fetch some beere and be merry. Saith (saith *Malgrado*) I haue left some little, but that I haue giuen to my Cat, which I keepe here in my basket to keel my Kats, and she I thinke by this hath paired the residue to the bone. If that be so said *Dobson*, then didst thou either eate very much, or thy Cat was greatly hungry. But I pray thee let vs see, it shall be very sore sowled, if I take not part with her of that which is behind. But *Malgrado* fearing that his pellicies would appeare, excused the matter, and said, that it could not be but that the Cat had made it past mans eating. Notwithstanding (said *Dobson*) I will not beleue it, but I see it, neither shall this shift serue to saue your viuals, and making no more to do, cut the rope in sunder with a Halbert, when downe came *Distresse Debora* in the basket, and in her fall she cryed, O helpe friend *Malgrado*, or

Dobsons drie Bobs.

Perish, but she had no supporters untill she came vpon the chamber where she was relieved with moze attendances then she desired, and that the truth of her coming thither might be manifested, the Masters and fellows were sent for to take her examination, who hauing really confessed her acquaintance and familiarity with *Malgrado*, with promise neuer moze to frequent his company (especially in the Colledge) she was let to goe without further punishment, & *Malgrado* was admonished vpon the paine of expulsion to abstaine from such acquaintance with all women whatsoeuer, during the time of his stay in the Colledge. *Dobson* therefore hauing this blot in *Malgrados* booke, versified vpon this theame at large in the publique audience, vpon the day of their dispute, and to quite *Malgrados* oratory who excelled *Dobson* in Rhetorick, yea and in rayling too, when they had disputed their first question, *Dobson* drew forth from vnder his gowne a basket which of purpose he had provided, and lifting vp the couer, forth skippeth a Cat, offering to run away, but *Dobson* catching her by the taylor, said, nay I beseech you to stay good Mistris *Debora*, you shall suppe before you passe, for your familiar friend *Malgrado* hath sised a shoulder of mutton which he drawing forth of the basket preferred to the poore amased Cat, who shrieking & crying scratched him by the fingers untill she was deliuered: the Schooles were admired of the mystery, neither did any man knowe what construction to giue thereto, while *Dobson* vnfolded all the former circumstances, which the audience hearing, thrust *Malgrado* from the Pulpit and gaue *Dobson* a generall applause, aswell for his learned disputes as his commicall conceits. But *Malgrado* complained of this disorder to the Master of their house, who considering, that not only *Malgrado*, but the whole house, by this discovery were made ridiculous

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culous to the whole Uniuersity, by thassent of the whole Chapter expelled *Dobson* both the Colledge and the Uniuersity at the very instant when he should haue proceeded Bachelour. *Dobson* taking in euill part this disgrace, against the day of the Bachelours commencement, he set vpon the Colledge gates the picture of *Malgrado* with a Bachelours cappe and gowne, in his right hand holding *Mistris Debera* in a basket, and in the other a Cat tyed in a chaine with a shoulder of mutton about hir necke, about him he placed the picturs of the mistris of the house and the fellows in their Doctors roabes, with corembes vpon the crownes of their cappes, and in each mans hand a fox taylor, and a paire of sheeres, this statue he erected an houre befoze day, and so tooke him to his heeles, lest if he were catcht he shoulde be punished for the same, bidding Cambridge and the scholes adew.

Howe *Dobson* became an Oastler and a seruingman, howe he beate his Mistris for the loue of her maide, and how he should haue hanged for riding away with his Maisters horse, and of his end,

The last Chap.



Dobson being in this manner banished the Uniuersity, not daring to look vpon his Uncle, and ashamed to returne to his Country in this dishonour, when he came at Huntingdon, he hired himselfe to an Inkeceper where he played the vnder Oastler for the space of a yeare to his great grief and discontent, untill a Gentleman of his country pittying that so able a boy, and well qualified as by his discourse and carriadge he seemed to be, should so basely bestowe himselfe

Dobson's drie Bobs.

himselfe perswaded him to giue ouer that trade of life, & to become a seruing man, which he told him was a more commendable course, lesse painefull, and could not be otherwise then more profitable also. *Dobson* soone assented to his perswasion hauing vsed the other but of meere necessity, and because he did not knowe howe to liue otherwise, the gentleman therefore concluding with him for reasonable wages, secretly conueighed him from *Huntington* to his owne house, with whome he stayed the space of another yeare also, in which time for his diligence and behauiour he gotte a singular opinion both of his Maister and Mistris, vntill this had happened. His Mistris had a colen who attended her in the chamber, an handsome girle, with whome *Dobson* came more familiarly acquainted then was allowed of, and also shee afforded him equall affection and loue, which caused her to haue many a lowering countenance of her Aunte, but she set light of them in regard of *Dobson's* fauour, much difficulty he suffered befoze he could impart his minde to her, which had not needed if he had beene assured of the maides good meaning toward him, who if modesty had not letted her, had first moued the suite to him, and neuer paused after his first motion made to giue him answer or to aduise of the matter, but protested at the very instant to be his affected & pawned the same with a kisse, yet they concluded to dissemble the same, and to keepe it secret from their Maister and Mistris. But loue like the fire, first smoking, and then flaming, increased so betwixt them that it burst forth to open viewe of all: their exterior shewes betrayed their interior secretes, and so apparant it was to the whole house, that their Maister and Mistris had information of the same, which the Mistris ill digested in respect she was her Pæce, and he a stranger unknowne to any of them, eyther his estate, condition,

Dobsons drie Bobs.

condition, or parentage, which he willingly concealed because he would not haue his Uncle to receaue any certificat of his course of life, she therfore strictly commanded her Cosen to absteyne from his company, and in no sort to vse him familiarly, as she cared to auoide her finall displeasure, but this charge was of as much force as if she had taken woode and throwne into the flame forbidding it to burne, for women are neuer earnest in loue vntill such time as they be forbidden to loue. When therfore her mistris had abziged her of al meanes of speaking with him in the house, appointed to meete him at the pen when the maids came to milking, where she to gratifie their fellowes & the rather to induce them to conceale their meetings, for her Mistris did diuerse times feast and banquet them with possets and the like conceites. But in all societies there are euer some false brothers, when to picke a thanke, or to gaine a particular fauour to themselues, dissupplant their fellowes, so among these maides there was one chattering pie, who thrust into the mistris head al their intercourse of loue and familiaritie which then passed, for which the pooze wench had many a sound chiding, yet tooke to denie all, so long that her constant negatiue one night moued her mistris to put vpon her a womans attyre, and secretly to conuay herselfe into a Calfehouse, hiding herselfe in the strawe vnder the cribbe, vntill the time of milking, purposing to try whether her cosen or the maide were in the trueth. And the same night they had assigned *Dobson* to be present at a posset of sacke, neuer suspecting that their mistris had any notice of their good felowship in that place, much lesse that shee was present to beholde their pastimes. But only she who had set her to the watche. While *Dobson* stayed longer than the houre assigned, they thought fit to make an ende of

D 2

milke.

Dobsons drie Bobs.

milkeing, that when he came they might haue nothing to stay them further, then only the dispatch of the posset, and also, lest staying later abroad then they were accustomed, their mistress might haue iealousie of some such matter. One of the maides, she who had first milked, went into the calfehouse to pul a rose, and as it would be, she pist into hir mistris necke vnkowne to hir, while at her going forth, she had a glimpse of one lying couered in the drawe, at which both ashamed and afraide shee came forth & related what had befallē her, some laughed at the tale a little, others cared how to dispose of the posset, thus she saith her cosen, loue making her bolde, if the case be so plaine, let vs stand to it like frindes, let them flinch that feares, we wil take no knowledge of her presence, God be thanked we knowe the worst, it is but the losse of a seruice, a chiding, a bundel of batts, and start I will not til my friend come, if it be not till midnight, I wil either vze her to come & take part with vs, or weary her of her lodging, but presently hereupon appeareth sir *Dobson* whom he much blamed for his lingring, withall, reuealing on what difficulties they stood vpon, in regard their mistress had set watch to trap them, no matter saide he, let vs first conquere this aduersary, and referre me to pacifie our mistress anger, I knowe a carde wherewith to coole the heate of my mistress fiery stomacke. And so whe the banquet ended, willing them to walke homewarde, he with a good fast cudgell entered the calfehouse, where with many a lusty blowe he happed his mistress about the shoulders, notwithstanding that shee entreated him to stay his handes and not to beate her being his mistress, no quoth hee thou arte some visarde witch, that pzetendest some mischiefe to my mistress her beasts, or else some naughty packe queane, in league with the maids, to cosen my mistress of the milke. My mistress is a gentlewo-
man

Debsons drie Robs.

man of good worshippinge, and would not for the world be
 scene in this bafe and ragged attyre, and therefore I wil
 hamper thee like as thou art, and so doubling his blowes
 he beate her againe till himselfe was weary, and shee so
 lamed that she was not able to stand, but falling downe
 vpon her knees, she saide, O good *George* I pray thee to
 take some pittie vpon me and kill me not forth-right, for
 in very trueth I am thy mistress, and came of purpose in
 this disguised and ragged cloathing, to espie and see thy
 vsege and behauiour with my maides, to whome I am
 contented to remit as to thee all that euer you haue tres-
 passed against me, conditionally that thou now cease fro
 beating me, and help to conduct me home, for thou hast
 so squeezed me that I am not able to goe alone, he seeme-
 ing by these speeches to be brought into some doubt that
 it should be his mistress indeed, carried her into the light
 where beholding her in the visage as though before he
 had not knowne her, he cried her mercy, & appeared very
 sorrowfull, requesting her to pardon him, affirming that
 he did not beleue that it should be her selfe, but some
 other rogissh ill disposed woman, and prostrating him-
 selfe vpon his knees he asked her hartily forgiveness (as
 she suppoed) and that he had beat hir of ignorance, wher-
 with shee the more easily pardoned him, and staying her
 selfe vpon his shoulders she walked home with him, but
 he had so bastid her, as for five weekes after, she was co-
 strained to keepe her bed, in which time shee was infor-
 med of the whole betwixt him and her maides as touch-
 ing her beating, for which afterwards she coulde neuer
 endure him, and to curbe his desires she priuately caused
 her kinswoman to be conueighed away he did not know
 whither, for which he became so discontent, that when
 his master was vpon occasions gone towards London
 his mistress sending him to a colens house about some bu-

Dobsons drie Bobs.

finesse, he rode away with his masters best gelding, sold him also and spent the mony neuer returning to giue answer of his message: his master at his comming backe from London, made dilligent enquiry after his man & his horse, and at the length being certified of his aboade, and the sale of his horse, he arsted him with a Iustices warrant, and got him committed to the Castle at *Yorke*, where he was to aunswere the assises, and had hanged without remission, if his vnkle had not made meanes for his repriue vntill he procured him a pardon. For after that he was hancheled in so great extremity, he directed letters to his vnkle, certifieng him of his lamentable case craueing pardon for all his former euagattions, & promising future reformation and to reclaime himselfe from al lewd behauiours, desiring also his vnkle to provide him a Channons place in *Dunholme*, whereby hee might be maintained sufficiently if he escaped death, and that through want he needed not be constrained to prosecute any moze such barbarous courses. Nature & pittie concurring in his vnkles best inforced him to affoord his helping hand. And by master Deanes meanes and the Prebends he got him freed from death, and imprisonment, and also beneficed in the Abbey, as he requested. Whereupon entring into consideration how much Almighty God and his frindes had helped him, he mortified all his irregular passions and spent the residue of his course in an admirable course of ciuility. For the which he was generally respected of all the people & the whole Cicargie, and after the death of his Unkeil, possessed of all his substance and beneficed with his Vicarage, in which estate he ended and finished his life.

Finis.

